History of the Thomas Kilham House documents the First Period house built by Thomas and Martha (Solart) Kilham in the 1680s in West Wenham, Massachusetts, as well as key events in the history of West Wenham. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 as the "Solomon Kimball House."

Volume 3 focuses on the Kimball family (who owned the house from ca.1789 through 1955); their boarders and tenants; and the subsequent subdivision of the Kimball Farm and suburbanization of the neighborhood.

History of the Thomas Kilham House, Vol. 3 ROBERT O. CORCORAN

ROBERT O. CORCORAN

History of the Thomas Kilham House Wenham, Massachusetts

VOLUME THREE

Solomon E. Kimball (1830–1924)

History of the Thomas Kilham House Wenham, Massachusetts

Vol. 3

By
Robert O. Corcoran

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Please direct all correspondence to:
Robert O. Corcoran
26 Maple Street
Wenham, MA 01984

Frontispiece:
Unidentified photographer
June 6, 1908 copy by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921)
Image courtesy of the Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts
B. H. Conant Collection, x2016.502

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TABLE *of* CONTENTS

Thank You vii

Corrections & Clarifications ix

18th-, 19th- & 20th-Century Births & Deaths xi

Chapter 4: The Kimballs 1

Chapter 5: Farm for Rent 145

Chapter 6: Suburbanization 213

Coda 295

Appendices

J: Solomon E. Kimball's Death Certificate 299

K: Lizzie (Fairfield) Kimball's Performance Reviews 303

L: Town Assessments, 1905–1955 311

M: Heads of Households, Maple Street, 1900–1940 319

N: Beverly Airport in World War II 331

O: Vernon Clark's Service in World War II 335

P: Newspaper Account of the Fire of 1959 337

Q: Newspaper Interview of Evelyn Pescosolido, 1962 341

R: Improvements to the House & Property, 1997–2025 343

S: Removal of the Furnace Chimney, 2019 345
T: Black Lives Matter Episode, 2020 349
U: Insulation of the Attic, 2025 355
V: Ghosts 359
Bibliography 363
Index 399

History of the
Thomas Kilham House
Wenham, Massachusetts

Vol. 3

THANK YOU …

… to Jeff Barraclough, Janet Harney and Penny Watson for sharing their family photographs; to the Wenham Museum for sharing images from their photograph collection; to James Tanzer for his scholarship on early Wenham-area African American families; and to Bob Hicks for sharing his memories of his childhood in West Wenham.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

VOLUME 1

p. 17, William Fiske's Sawmill. The sawmill referred to in note 30 was White's Sawmill on Miles River, discussed at Volume 2, pages 36-39. See Essex County Deeds 11:273 (Thomas White [Jr.] to Col. John Wainwright, 1697).

VOLUME 2

p. 41, Mill Complex, Dodges Row. Figure 2.16 shows the remains of bridge abutments and not the remains of a sluiceway. See Essex County Deeds Plan 1946:850 ("Plan of Dodge's Row from the Beverly City Line to Larch Row," 1946), sheet 3.

p. 58, Restoration of the Fireplace. The current owners bought the house from the Warrens in 1997, not in 1992.

p. 65, Wine Cellar. The wine cellar was built at some point between 1971 and 1975.

p. 85, King William's War. The list of Wenham soldiers who were part of the 1690 Expedition to Canada (note 124) was co-written by William Fiske Jr., not by William Fiske 3rd. It at preserved in *Massachusetts Archives Collections* 113: 127, not 13:127.

p. 124, Other Members of the Josiah Fairfield Household. David Harris (b? d?) appears to have been a tenant of the Fairfields by 1776. Harris fought in the Revolutionary War and for part of his service was a corporal in Capt. Matthew Fairfield's Company in the 13th Massachusetts Regiment. Subsequent to his

service in under Fairfield, Harris appears to have spent the winter of 1777–1778 at Valley Forge.[1]

p. 145, Powder Room Door. Shown in Figure 3.24, the powder room door (which dates from the mid-eighteenth century) was relocated to its current location when Evelyn Pescosolido installed the powder room in 1959–1960. That project entailed reversing the direction of the stairs above the powder room, and the powder room door may have come from a closet that had been beneath those stairs prior to their reversal.

pp. 166-172, Matthew Fairfield's Military Service. For more on Fairfield's service during the Revolutionary War see Corcoran (2025), 102.

p. 196, Elizabeth Sweetser. Elizabeth was born in Stoneham on August 18, 1760 to Phineas and Mary (Rhoads) Sweetser. See note 344, page 305 of Corcoran (2025).

p. 223, Huldah (Porter) Kimball's Widow's Third, 1813. Figure 4.29 in this volume corrects Figure D.1 in Appendix D.

pp. 301-303, Driveway. By the 1930s the driveway ran around the back of the house, resulting in two entrances on Maple Street, viewable in Figures 5.12 and 6.2 in this volume. The 1938 and 1955 photographs shown in Figures 5.12 and 6.2 were found subsequent to the research done for Appendix I.

pp. 303-307, Dairy Barn. Viewable in Figure 5.6 in this volume, it was mistakenly omitted from the discussion of barns in Appendix I. Given its location, perhaps the dairy barn was the same structure as the "old barn" mentioned in Thomas Kimball Jr.'s probate file. Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Widow's Dower (1813).

[1] Corcoran (2025), 128.

18TH-, 19TH- & 20TH-CENTURY BIRTHS & DEATHS

It's probably the case that fourteen people were born in this house between the 1790s and the early twentieth century. As many as twelve probably died here.

Births that Probably Occurred in the Thomas Kilham House
Children of owners and tenants of the Thomas Kilham House who were born in Wenham while their parents were living in the house:

1. Clarissa Kimball, 1798
2. Benjamin Porter Kimball, 1801
3. Maria Kimball, 1805
4. Nancy Kimball, 1817
5. Thomas Kimball 4th, 1818
6. John Kimball, 1819
7. Sarah J. Kimball, 1821
8. Edmund Kimball, 1823
9. Ebenezer Sarry Kimball, 1826
10. Betsey E. Kimball, 1829
11. Solomon Elwell Kimball, 1830
12. Josephine A. Evans, 1855
13. John Wesley Evans, 1857
14. Elwell Fairfield Kimball, 1873

Deaths that May Have Occurred in the Thomas Kilham House
Owners and tenants of the Thomas Kilham House and their children who died in Wenham:

1. Maria Kimball, 1806
2. Thomas Kimball Jr., 1810
3. *perhaps* Experience (-----) Webber, 1820
4. Huldah (Porter) Kimball, 1835
5. John Kimball, 1835
6. Thomas Kimball 3rd, 1845
7. Sarah J. Kimball, 1852
8. Hanna A. (Whittier) Evans, 1858
9. Betsey E. Kimball, 1864
10. Nancy (Elwell) Kimball, 1865
11. *perhaps* Joseph W. Peabody, 1871
12. *perhaps* Charles W. Bixby, 1926

CHAPTER 4

THE KIMBALLS

THOMAS Kimball Jr. (1756–1810), a cooper by trade, grew up on his family's farm on Cherry Street. At age 30 he began buying land in West Wenham, piecing together parcels that had been owned by the Gott family, as the Gotts struggled in vain to keep their farm in the family during the years that followed the Revolutionary War. By the time he died, Thomas and his wife Huldah (Porter) Kimball (1759–1835) had acquired almost one-quarter of the town that's west of Topsfield Road.

Thomas and Huldah bought the Thomas Kilham House with the intention of renting it out. But their home (the Fiske-Gott House, near current-day Meridian Road) burned soon after they bought the Kilham House, and they moved into the Kilham House in 1798. Thomas and Huldah—or possibly their son and daughter-in-law Thomas Kimball 3rd (1789–1845) and Nancy (Elwell) Kimball (1791–1865) executed a renovation project that included new fireplace surrounds on the second floor and a new staircase in the front hall.

Thomas 3rd was a bricklayer by trade. His widow Nancy survived him by twenty years and boarded the Evans family and others for several years. One of her boarders, shoemaker/farmer Alpheus Evans (1827–1863), tried to establish a farm of his own across the street but died while fighting in the Civil War before he could save enough money to build his own house. Another boarder, shoemaker Richard R. Smith (*ca.*1839–1875) also fought in the Civil War.

Solomon E. Kimball (1830–1924) lived on the property for 64 years, making him its longest-tenured resident. He and his wife Lizzie (Fairfield) Kimball (1840–1916) moved to Newburyport in 1894, where he opened a grocery store. He rented out the house and farm until he died thirty years later.

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THOMAS KIMBALL JR., OWNER OF THE HOUSE FROM *CA.*1789 TO 1810

Thomas Kimball Jr., son of Capt. Thomas Sr. and Mary (Cross) Kimball, was born February 26, 1756 in Wenham[1] and died (of "jaundice") on December 27, 1810 in Wenham,[2] perhaps in the Thomas Kilham House. He grew up in the Edmund Kimball House formerly at 72 Cherry Street (Figure 4.1) which his father inherited in 1768.[3] He married Huldah Porter, daughter of Benjamin Jr. and Eunice (Nurse) Porter, who was born on March 20, 1759 in Danvers. Her father was a potter by trade and a veteran of the Revolutionary War. The Porters lived on Skelton's Neck, the peninsula of Danversport

Continued on p. 10

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1 Wenham First Congregational Church, *Records of the Congregational Church, Wenham, Mass., 1643–1805*, MS, Congregational Library, Boston, 46; Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham: Births, Marriages, and Intentions of Marriages and Deaths, 1700–1810, Vol. II*, MS, 2:23 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 248; cited subsequently as "*MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS"); Leonard Allison Morrison and Stephen Paschall Sharples, *History of the Kimball Family in America* (Boston: Damrell & Upham, 1897), 119-120, 226; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1904), 55, 102, 138.

2 Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham: Births, Marriages, and Intentions of Marriages and Deaths, 1791–1844, Vol. III*, MS, 2 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 289; cited subsequently as "*MS Vital Records, 1791–1844*, MS"); Wenham First Congregational Church, *Church Records, Vol. 2, 1792–1847*, MS, Congregational Library, Boston, 34 (cited subsequently as "*MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS"); Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811); Wellington Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham," *Essex Institute Historical Collections,* 20 (1883):298; Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (no publisher: 1887), 11; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 209; and Findagrave.com, memorial #60830971.

Headstone of Thomas Kimball Jr., Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. August 16, 2014 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

In Memory of
MR. THOMAS KIMBALL
who departed this life,
Dec. 27. 1810.
Æt. 54.
Retire my friends dry up your tears.
Here I must rest till Christ appears.

The footstone is inscribed "T. K."

3 Robert O. Corcoran, *Wenham Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolution* (New York: Barnes & Noble Press, 2025), 154.

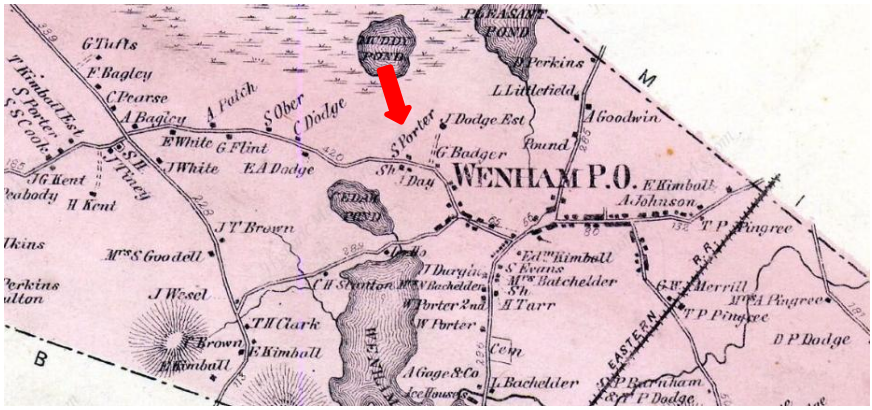

Figure 4.1. Site of the Edmund Kimball House, 72 Cherry Street, childhood home of Thomas Kimball Jr. The "S. Porter" House was either the Kimball House or a later structure built on its site.[4]

4 D. G. Beers & Co., *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co., 1872), 95.

Figure 4.2. The Israel Porter House, Danversport. Built by her great-grandfather Israel Porter (bp.1643–1706), this was the childhood home of Huldah (Porter) Kimball.[5]

5 Sidney Perley, "The Plains: Part of Salem in 1700," *Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society,* 7 (1919):between pages 104 and 105. Unidentified artist. Perley's article includes a description of the house in addition to this drawing. This image is romanticized, since the house burned in 1865 some 54 years before the image was published.

Figure 4.3. Headstone of Thomas Kimball Jr. and footstone of Huldah (Porter) Kimball.[6]

6 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. August 16, 2014 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 2 for transcription. The headstone faces to the north, while the footstone faces to the south.

Figure 4.4. Footstone of Thomas Kimball Jr.[7]

7 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. August 16, 2014 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. Inscribed "T. K." The back of Thomas's headstone appears to the upper right, while the back of Huldah Kimball's headstone appears to the upper left. The headstones face to the north, while the footstone faces to the south.

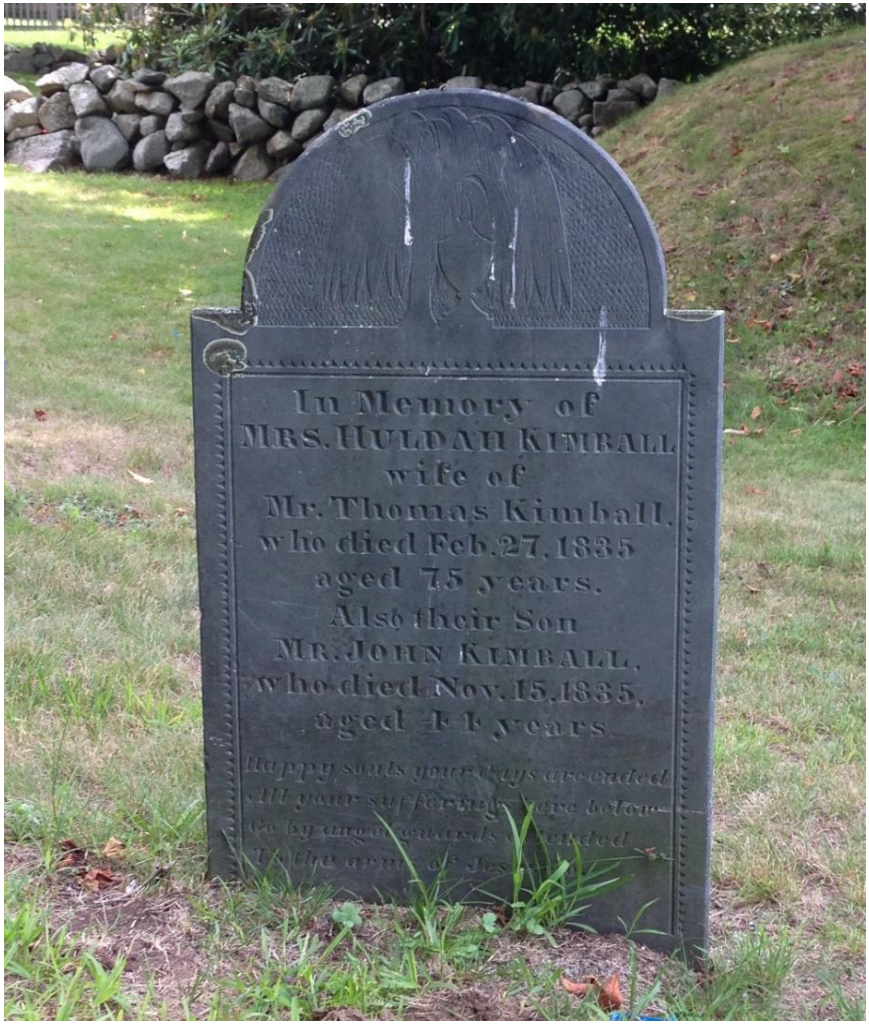

Figure 4.5. Joint headstone of Huldah (Porter) Kimball and John Kimball.[8]

8 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. August 16, 2014 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 12 for a transcription.

Figure 4.6. Kimball family graves. In the foreground, right to left, are the footstones for Thomas 3rd, Huldah and Thomas Kimball Jr. Their corresponding headstones are in the middle ground, their backs to the viewer.[9]

9 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. August 16, 2014 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

between Porter River and Crane River (Figure 4.2).[10] Thomas Jr. and Huldah recorded the intention of their marriage on March 19, 1780 at Wenham, one day before her twenty-first birthday.[11] She died on February 27, 1835 in Wenham[12] perhaps in the Thomas Kilham House.

Thomas Jr. and Huldah (Porter) Kimball had ten children, the last three of whom were probably born in the Thomas Kilham House:[13]

---

10 Joseph W. Porter, *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Richard Porter* (Bangor, ME: Burr & Robinson Printers, 1878), 256-257; Perley, "The Plains: Part of Salem in 1700" (1919):104-106, and map between pages 100 and 101; Secretary of the Commonwealth, *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co.), 12 (1904):582; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Danvers, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1909–1910), 1:276.

The Peabody-Salem area was an important center of redware production by the time of the Revolution (with 34 potters from the area listed in the militia that marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775) and had at least 30 potteries in business by the War of 1812. See Justin W. Thomas, "Digging Into the Peabody Potters: Archaeology and Red Earthenware," *New England Antiques Journal,* 37 (November 2017), 34-37.

11 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, first section, unnumbered page (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 210); and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 138, 157.

12 Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS, 40. Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1883), 298; Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1887), 11; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 207; and Findagrave.com, memorial #61937721.

Joint headstone of Huldah Kimball and John Kimball, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. August 16, 2014 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

In Memory of
MRS. HULDAH KIMBALL
wife of
Mr. Thomas Kimball,
who died Feb. 27, 1835
aged 75 years.
Also their Son
MR. JOHN KIMBALL,
who died Nov. 15, 1835,
aged 44 years.
Happy souls your days are ended
All your sufferings here below
Go by angel guards attended
To the arms of Jesus go.

Huldah's footstone is inscribed "H. K." No footstone found for son John Kimball.

13 As discussed later in this chapter, the Kimball family moved from the Fiske-Gott House to the Thomas Kilham House early in 1798.

Children:

1. Paul Kimball was born on December 23, 1781 in Wenham. He died on November 1 or 23, 1797 at sea, his death recorded at Wenham.[14]
2. Betsey Kimball was born on October 8, 1783 in Wenham and died on February 24, 1855, perhaps in Essex, Massachusetts (although she had been living in Atkinson, New Hampshire). She married Ebenezer Todd Jr. on April 30, 1809 in Wenham. He was the son of Ebenezer and Huldah (Kilborn) Todd, was born on November 8, 1782 in Rowley, Massachusetts, and died on January 1, 1851 in Atkinson, New Hampshire.[15]
3. Capt. Edmund Kimball was born on September 24, 1786 in Wenham and died on August 23, 1879 in Wenham. He married first Mary Hooper on June 13, 1813 in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Mary was the daughter of Asa and Deliverance (Knight) Hooper, was born on April 3, 1793 in Marblehead, and died on May 15, 1826 in Marblehead. He married second Lydia Mugford Russell on October 19, 1828 in Marblehead. Lydia was the daughter of John Roades and Elizabeth (Mugford) Russell, was born on June 7, 1802 in Marblehead, and died on January 4, 1892 in Wenham. Kimball was a veteran of the War of 1812. Although he started out as a housewright and

Continued on p. 15

14 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, 2:57 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 265); Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS, 31; Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 54, 208.

15 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, first section, unnumbered page and 2:57 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Birth, Marriages and Deaths, frames 235, 265); Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS, 151; Essex County Deeds 531:286 (William C. Todd to Nancy Kimball, 1855); Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226; Thomas Patrick Hughes, ed., *American Ancestry: Giving the Name and Descent, in the Male Line, of Americans Whose Ancestors Settled in the United States Previous to the Declaration of Independence, A.D. 1776* (Albany, NY: Joel Munsell's Sons), 12 (1899):94-95; Gustavus F. Kimball, *The Kimball Family News* (Topeka, KS: 1900), 1-2:377, 3-4:297, 335; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 51, 135, 170; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Ipswich, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss), 2 (1910):250, 428; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Rowley, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1928), 334, 417; "Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889–1970," online database, Ancestry.com, 2011, 42:227, application of William C. Todd, 1896; "New Hampshire: Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1654–1969," online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society (2014), Deaths T-U-V to 1901:6451-6452; and Findagrave.com, memorials #206595074 and 206595180.

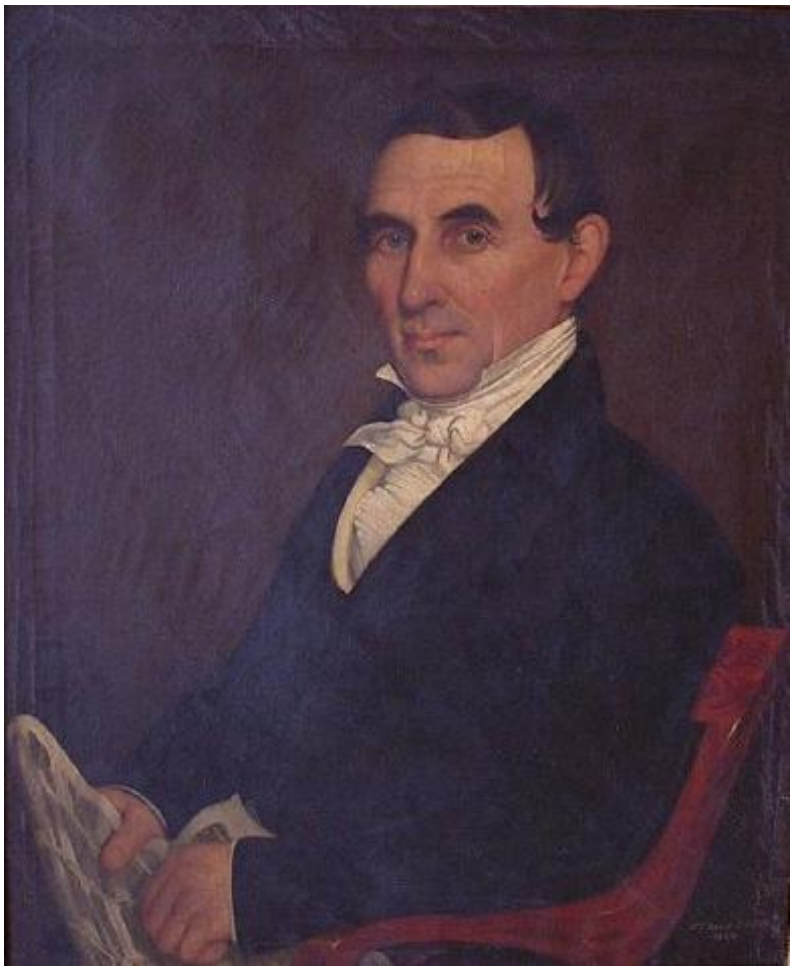

Figure 4.7. Capt. Edmund Kimball (1786–1879). Portrait by William Thompson Bartoll (1811–1859) painted in 1848. This is the earliest image found of a resident of the Thomas Kilham House.[16]

16 Jeremiah Lee Mansion, Marblehead Museum, Marblehead, Massachusetts, 2007.031. Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921) photographed this portrait in 1909; see Wenham Museum, B. H. Conant Collection, x2016.495 and x2016.496. This portrait was published in John R. H. Kimball, *Disasters Etc.: The Maritime World of Marblehead, 1815–1865* (Portsmouth, NH: Peter E. Randall Publisher, 2005), 48.

Figure 4.8. Lydia (Russell) Kimball (1802–1892). Portrait by William Thompson Bartoll (1811–1859) painted *ca.*1850.[17]

17 Jeremiah Lee Mansion, Marblehead Museum, Marblehead, Massachusetts, 2007.032. This portrait was published in John R. H. Kimball (2005), 52.

Figure 4.9. Gravestones of Capt. Edmund Kimball and Lydia (Russell) Kimball.[18]

18 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. September 9, 2017 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 19 for transcriptions.

was subsequently a merchant, Capt. Edmund Kimball owned 30 schooners over the course of his career, sailing out of Marblehead. Financially successfully but rather parsimonious, an 1847 credit report on him by Dunn & Co. (predecessor to Dunn & Bradstreet) described him as "[r]ich and as mean as could be." He moved back to Wenham and built the house at 225 Main Street (Figure 4.62) sometime between 1852 and 1856.[19]

4. Thomas Kimball 3rd was born on February 1, 1789 in Wenham and died on October 25, 1845 in Wenham.[20] A subsequent owner of the Thomas Kilham House, Thomas 3rd is treated in more detail later in this chapter.

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19 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, 2:57 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 265); "Edmund Kimball (1768–1879) of Marblehead Papers," Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Rowley, Massachusetts, MSS #325; Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226, 418-419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Marblehead, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1903–1904), 1:274, 448 and 2:220, 222, 244, 247, 374, 595; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 52; Gardner W. Pearson, *Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia Called Out by the Governor of Massachusetts to Suppress a Threatened Invasion During the War of 1812–14* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1913), 6, 7; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910," online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society (2004), 310:286, 427:519; John R. H. Kimball (2005), Chapter 4; and Findagrave.com, memorials #19173726, 60502422 and 60502528.

Gravestones of Capt. Edmund Kimball and Lydia M. (Russell) Kimball, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. September 9, 2017 transcriptions by Robert O. Corcoran:

TO THE MEMORY OF
CAPT.
EDMUND KIMBALL
A VETERAN OF THE
WAR OF 1812,
1786 – 1879
ERECTED BY THE
WENHAM VETERAN [*sic*]
ASSOCIATION.

LYDIA M. RUSSELL
WIFE OF
EDMUND KIMBALL
JUNE 9, 1802
JAN. 4, 1892

For residence on Main Street, see Essex County Deeds 782:24 (Andrew Dodge *et al.* to Edmund Kimball, 1852), 782:25 (Andrew Dodge et al. to Edmund Kimball, 1854), first parcel, and 1672:27 (William P. Kimball *et al.* to Joseph B. Mccabe, 1902); and Henry Francis Walling, *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Boston: Smith and Morley, 1856).

20 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, 2:59 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 266); Town of Wenham, *Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths, in the Town of Wenham, Commonwealth of Massachusetts [1843–1850]*, MS, 11 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 419); Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226, 419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 55, 209; and "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 20:123.

5. John Kimball was born on March 20, 1791 in Wenham and died on November 15 or 16, 1835 in Wenham.[21]
6. Sally Kimball was born on August 26, 1793 in Wenham and died on August 26, 1862 in Wenham. She married first Capt. Matthew Leach Jr., their intention of marriage recorded on July 15, 1814 in Wenham. Matthew, a mariner, was the son of Capt. Matthew Sr. and Sarah (-----) (Derby) Leach, was born on December 9, 1784 in Salem, Massachusetts, and died about October 1818. (Matthew Leach was previously married, on February 5, 1805 in Salem, to Sarah ("Sally") Freeland. Sarah Freeland died in March 1814 in Salem, aged 31, and was buried on March 25, 1814.) She married second Paul Kimball on January 13, 1828 in Wenham. Paul was the son of Nathaniel and Rebecca (Moulton) Kimball and was a first cousin of Sally. He was born on October 16, 1797 in Wenham and died on November 6, 1851 in Wenham. (Paul Kimball was previously married, on December 5, 1822 in Wenham, to Sarah Dodge. Sarah Dodge was the daughter of Peter Jr. and Sally (Dodge) Dodge, was born in on March 15, 1800 in Wenham, and died on February 12, 1827 in Wenham).[22]

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21 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, 2:59 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 266); Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS, 40 (November 16); joint gravestone of Huldah Kimball and John Kimball (November 15; see footnote 12 for transcription); Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1883), 298; Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1887), 11; Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 53, 207; and Findagrave.com, memorial #61938293.

22 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, 2:62 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 268); Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 28, 36, 44 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frames 298, 302, 306); Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS, 37, 153, 154; Essex County Deeds 179:233 (John Morong *et al.* to Sarah Leach, 1806), 181:136 (Matthew [Jr.] and Sarah Leach to John Morong, 1806), 212:20 (William Safford to Matthew Leach Jr., 1812), 212:21 (Matthew Leach [Jr.] to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1816), Deed and 212:21 (Matthew Leach [Jr.] to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1816), Bill of Sale; Essex County Probate 16497 (Matthew Leach [Jr.], 1818); Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham, Mass.: Deaths, 1851–1900 Inclusive*, MS, 3 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 515; cited subsequently as "*MS Vital Records, Deaths, 1851–1900*, MS"); Essex County Probate 44419 (Paul Kimball, 1852); Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1883), 299; Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1887), 12; Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226, 227, 421; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham*

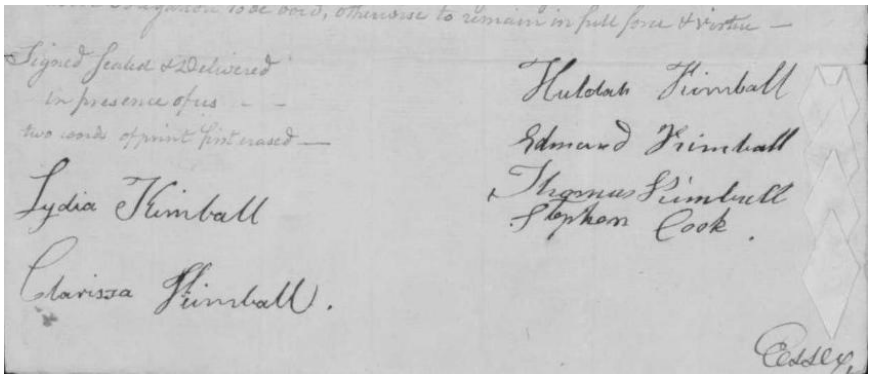


Figure 4.10. Signatures of Huldah (Porter) Kimball and her children Capt. Edmund Kimball, Thomas Kimball 3rd, Lydia Kimball and Clarissa Kimball, 1813.[23]

(1904), 29, 54, 112, 137, 138, 142, 208; Benjamin J. Lindsey, *Old Marblehead Sea Captains and the Ships in Which They Sailed* (Marblehead, MA: Marblehead Historical Society, 1915), 88; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1916–1925), 1:515, 3:294, 384, 595 and 5:396; Adeline P. Cole, *Notes on Wenham History* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1943), 115-116; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 57:170, 156:285; Robert O. Corcoran, *Enslaved People & Wenham* (New York: Barnes & Noble Press, 2024), 274; and Findagrave.com, memorials #63268574 and 63268607.

Joint gravestone of Paul Kimball and Sally Kimball, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. September 9, 2017 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

PAUL KIMBALL DIED NOV. 5 [*sic*], 1851 Æt. 54.	SALLY, *widow of* *P. Kimball*, died Aug. 26 1862, Æt. 69.
It is the hope, the blissful hope *Which Jesus's grace has given,* *The hope when days & years are past* *We all shall meet in heaven.* *D. Nichols Lowell.*	*Sudden she was called to go* *And bid adieu to all below* *Sudden the vital spirit fled* *And she was numbered with the Dead*

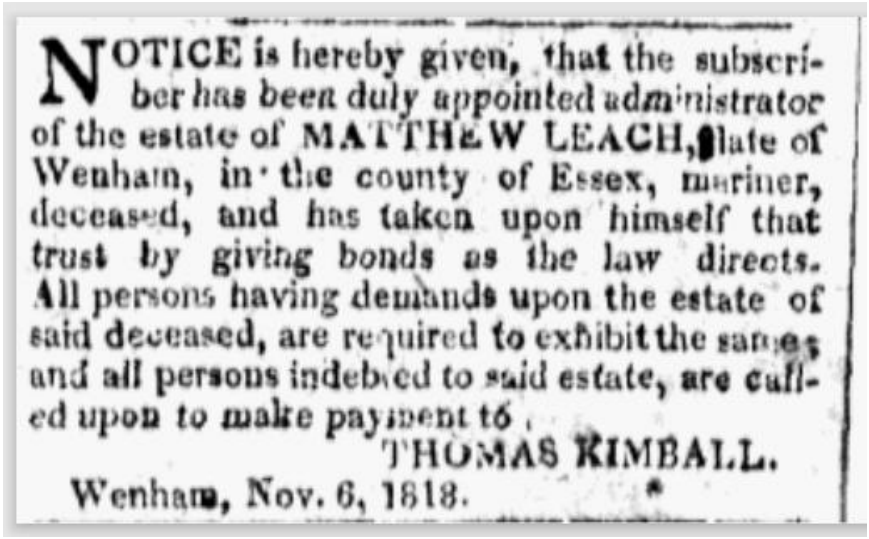
Paul Kimball's inscription faces to the west, while Sally Kimball's inscription faces to the south.

Matthew Leach was captain of the schooner "Friendship" out of Marblehead in 1809. He was a member of the crew of the Chebacco boat "Lilly" in 1816.

23 Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Administrators' Bond (1813).

Figure 4.11. Joint gravestone of Paul Kimball and Sally Kimball.[24]

24 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. September 9, 2017 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 22 for transcription.


NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has been duly appointed administrator of the estate of MATTHEW LEACH, late of Wenham, in the county of Essex, mariner, deceased, and has taken upon himself that trust by giving bonds as the law directs. All persons having demands upon the estate of said deceased, are required to exhibit the same; and all persons indebted to said estate, are called upon to make payment to

THOMAS KIMBALL.

Wenham, Nov. 6, 1818.

Figure 4.12. Newspaper advertisement of the appointment of Thomas Kimball 3rd as administrator of the estate of Matthew Leach, 1818.[25]

25 *Salem Gazette* [Salem, MA], November 6, 1818, 3. Transcription:

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has been duly appointed administrator of the estate of MATTHEW LEACH, late of Wenham, in the county of Essex, mariner, deceased, and has taken upon himself that trust by giving bonds as the law directs. All persons having demands upon the estate of said deceased, are required to exhibit the same; and all persons indebted to said estate, are called upon to make payment to

THOMAS KIMBALL.

Wenham, Nov. 6, 1818.

The ad also ran in the *Salem Gazette* on page 4 (each edition) of November 10, 13, 17 and 20.

7. Lydia Kimball was born on March 6, 1796 in Wenham and died on May 9, 1878 in Wenham. She married Edmund Batchelder Jr. on July 22, 1817 in Hamilton, Massachusetts. He was the son of Edmund and Elizabeth (Kimball) Batchelder, was born on April 15, 1794 in Wenham and died on April 27, 1865 in Wenham.[26]

26 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, 2:62 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 268); Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, Deaths, 1851–1900*, MS, 20, 33 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frames 533, 546); Essex County Probate 32339 (Edmund Batchelder [Jr.], 1865); Morrison and Sharples (1897), 119, 226; Frederick Clifton Pierce, *Batchelder, Batcheller Genealogy* (Chicago: W. B. Conkey Company, 1898), 401, 441; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 12, 53, 90, 137; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Hamilton, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1908), 41, 60; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 183:271, 301:279; Corcoran, *Enslaved People & Wenham* (2024), 274; and Findagrave.com, memorials #64021238 and 64022557.

Joint gravestone of Edmund Batchelder Jr. and Lydia Batchelder, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. September 9, 2017 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

FATHER.
EDMUND BATCHELDER.
Died Apr. 27, 1865.
[…]
LYDIA.
his wife
Died May 9, 18[…]
Æt. 82 y'rs […]
Th[one line of verse, illegible]
BATCHELDER.

Edmund and Lydia's inscription faces to the north. A separate inscription for their daughter faces to the west: SARAH M. DAY, | Born May 1, 1827, | Died Apr. 30, 1891. | [one line of verse, illegible].

Figure 4.13. Edmund Batchelder Jr. (1794–1865).[27]

27 Unidentified photographer; 1908 copy by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921) of an earlier photograph. Wenham Museum, B. H. Conant Collection, x2016.258.

Figure 4.14. Joint gravestone of Edmund Batchelder Jr., Lydia (Kimball) Batchelder and their daughter Sarah M. (Batchelder) Day.[28]

28 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. September 9, 2017 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 26 for transcription.

Figure 4.15. Gravestones of Isaac Porter and Clarissa (Kimball) Porter.[29]

29 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. September 9, 2017 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 30 for transcriptions.

8. Clarissa Kimball was born on October 24, 1798 in Wenham and died on August 19, 1873 in Wenham. She married Isaac Porter on February 13, 1820 in Wenham. He was the son of Col. Paul and Nancy (Moulton) Porter, was born on March 18, 1797 in Wenham and died on January 1, 1854 in Wenham.[30]
9. Benjamin Porter Kimball was born on October 11, 1801 in Wenham and died on July 29, 1886 in Marblehead, Massachusetts. He married first Abigail Davis Brown on April 3, 1827 in Beverly, Massachusetts. Abigail was the daughter of Benjamin and Polly (-----) Brown, was born on April 22, 1808 in Beverly, and died on July 16, 1854 in Beverly. He married second Eunice Haskell on May 15, 1856 in Beverly. Eunice was the daughter of Adoniram and Ruth (Perkins) Haskell,

30 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, 2:62 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 268); Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 1, 34 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frames 288, 301); Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, Deaths, 1851–1900*, MS, 8, 28 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frames 518, 541); Essex County Probate 50677 (Isaac Porter 1855); Porter (1878), 327; Jedediah Herrick and Lucius C. Herrick, *Herrick Genealogy: A Genealogical Register of the Name and Family of Herrick* (Columbus, OH: George Riddle, 1885), 136; Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 52, 71, 136, 158; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 84:184, 256:310; and Findagrave.com, memorials #62235405 and 62235863.

Gravestones of Isaac and Clarissa (Kimball) Porter, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. September 9, 2017 transcriptions by Robert O. Corcoran:

ISAAC PORTER.
DIED
JAN. 1, 1854,
IN THE 57th
YEAR
OF HIS AGE.

Sleep precious dust in calm repose.
Thy toil and pains are at a close.
Thy happy soul with Jesus rests
In heavenly mansions with the blest.

CLARRISA PORTER.
DIED
AUG. 19, 1873,
IN THE 74th
YEAR
OF HER AGE.

He giveth his beloved sleep.

was born on April 14, 1805 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and died on July 15, 1865 in Beverly.[31]

10. Maria Kimball was born on April 15, 1805 in Wenham and died (of "consumption") on October 19, 1806 in Wenham.[32]

31 George A. Perkins, "The Family of John Perkins of Ipswich," *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute*, 20 (1883):197; Perkins, *The Family of John Perkins of Ipswich, Massachusetts* (Salem, MA: Salem Press, 1889), 82; Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226, 419-420; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 51; Topsfield Historical Society, *Vital Records of Beverly, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1906–1907), 1:53 and 2:45, 177; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Danvers* (1909–1910), 1:200; Ira J. Haskell, *Chronicles of the Haskell Family* (Lynn, MA: Ellis Printing Company, 1943), 229; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 84:111, 99:136, 373:263; and Findagrave.com, memorials #121475542, and 157-867066.

Joint gravestone of Benjamin P., Abigail D. (Brown), Benjamin F., Benjamin P. Jr. and Eunice (Haskell) Kimball, Central Cemetery, Beverly, November 20, 2021 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

North-facing pane:
[stone broken]
July 29, 1886
Æt. 84.
ABIGAIL D.
wife of
B. P. Kimball.
died
July 16, 1854
Æt. 46.
[one line, illegible]
BENJAMIN F.
died Oct. 25, 1838
Æt. 1 yr.

East-facing pane:
B. P. KIMBALL Jr.
died at Calcutta
Sept. 24, 1858
Æt. 19 yrs.

West-facing pane:
EUNICE.
wife of
B. P. Kimball.
died
July 15, 1865.
Æt. 60 yrs.

32 Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 53, 209.

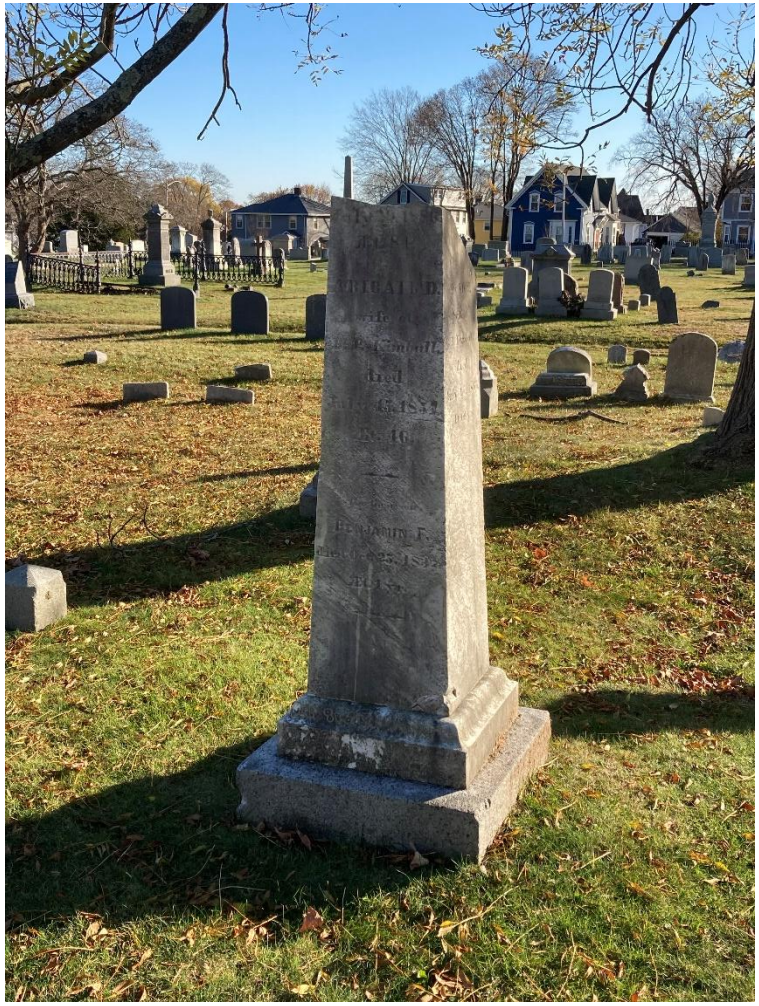


Figure 4.16. Joint gravestone of Benjamin P. Kimball, wives Abigail D. (Brown) Kimball and Eunice (Haskell) Kimball, and sons Benjamin F. Kimball and Benjamin P. Kimball Jr.[33]

33 Central Cemetery, Beverly, Massachusetts. November 20, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The Kimballs sure liked their obelisks. See footnote 31 for transcription.

Thomas Jr.'s Public Life and Military Service

At age nineteen Thomas Jr. served for three days at the opening of the American Revolution, marching during the Lexington Alarm of April 19, 1775 as a private in a company of militia commanded by his father Capt. Thomas Kimball Sr. (1730–1805). His company likely marched to Medford to monitor traffic on the Mystic River.[34] After the war he was a cooper by trade—and one wonders if his barrel-making business was solely with local farmers or instead was linked to the shipping trade in the local ports.[35]

Like former Thomas Kilham House owner Matthew Fairfield, Thomas fought in the Revolutionary War, albeit in a different company of militia from Wenham. Both men marched on the Lexington Alarm of April 19, 1775.

He held various roles in town government: Hog reeve in 1785 (the porcine equivalent of dog catcher, wayward pigs being able to cause quite a bit of crop damage); hayward in 1787 (responsible for monitoring of fencing around town common land); constable in 1790; and surveyor of fences in 1794 (arbiter of disputes over fencing).[36] He was a selectman in 1799 and 1800; a member of the committee that perambulated the Wenham-Topsfield town line in 1799; and a member of the committee to select a new minister in 1800.[37] After his service as selectman he was hayward in 1803; an overseer of the poor in 1803 and 1809; hog reeve in 1804; a member of the committee to set the salary of the new minister in 1804 and 1805; and surveyor of fences in 1805.[38]

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34 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1776–1810* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1959), 8; and Corcoran, *Wenham Soldiers & Sailors* (2025), 8, 154. Capt. Thomas Kimball Sr.'s company was part of Col. John Baker's Regiment. For Fairfield's service during the alarm of April 19, 1775, see Volume 2, page 166.

35 See Essex County Deeds 154:134 (William and Eunice Young to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1791), 159:175 (Nathan Wood to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1791), 159:175 (Nathan Wood to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1794), and 160:90 (John Knight to Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1795).

36 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1776–1810* (1959), 61, 72, 86, 104.

37 *Ibid*., 126, 133, 136, 139, 144; and Sidney Perley, "Wenham," in D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., *History of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1888), 2:1248.

38 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1776–1810* (1959), 163, 196-199, 170, 174-175, 179, 183, 218.

Purchase and Expansion of the John Gott Jr. Farm

We encountered the John Gott Jr. Farm briefly in Chapter 1. John Gott Jr. (*ca*.1694–1761) received the William Fiske Jr. Farm on proto-Topsfield Road —along with the Fiske-Gott House, barn and outbuildings—from his father, and raised his family there.[39] John's widow Elizabeth (Rogers) (Kimball) Gott (1714–after 1777[40]) continued to live there when John died, but in 1777 she sold part of her interest in the farm to her son-in-law Francis Porter (1748–1815). Her son Nathaniel (1755–1828) also sold his interest in the farm to him. Porter owned the property for seven years before he sold it to another Gott son-in-law, John Page (1751–1838). Page, in turn, only owned the property for two years before *he* sold it in 1786 to Thomas Kimball Jr.—whose wife Huldah was a sister of Francis Porter and sister-in-law of John Page. (Kimball's title to the Gott Farm was subsequently confirmed by a 1791 deed from William and Eunice (Gott) Young, and a 1792 deed from Francis Porter.)[41] Figure 4.17

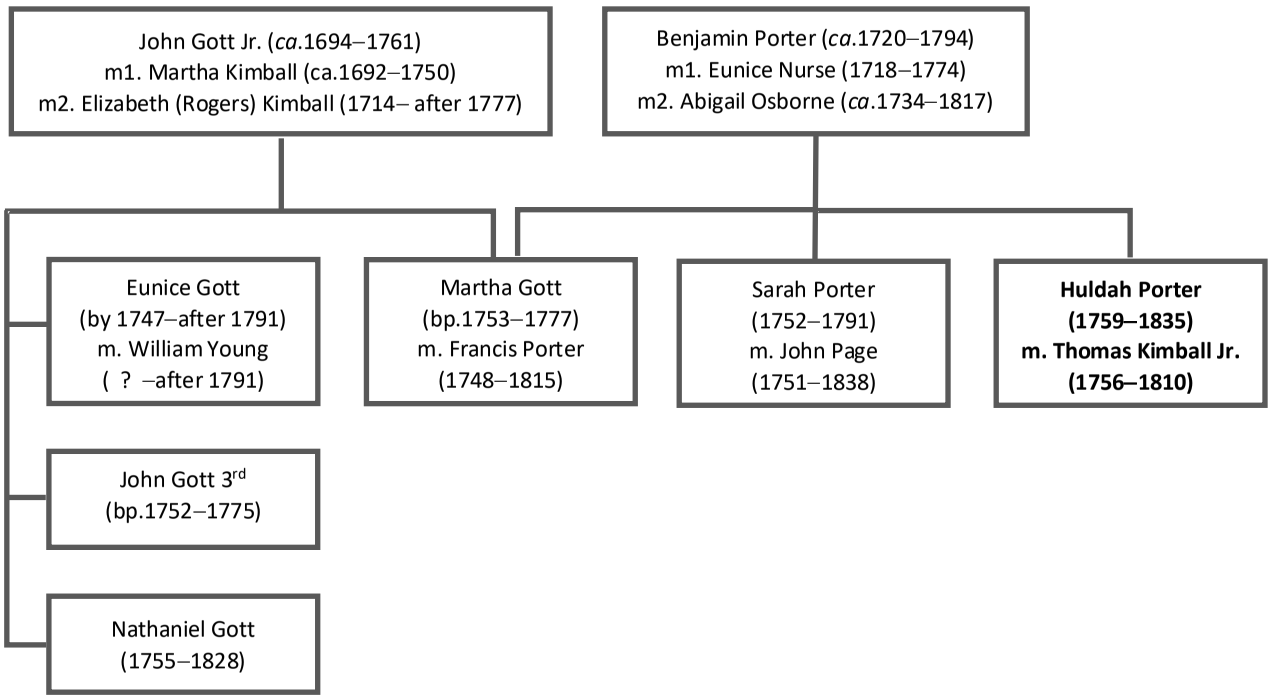
By 1798 Kimball had a farm of 108 acres; by 1810 he had 159 acres. A cooper by trade, Kimball must have sold *a lot* of barrels to build a farm that large.

39 See Volume 1, pages 17-20. John Gott Jr. sued Thomas Kilham House owner Josiah Fairfield; see Volume 2, pages 128-129.

40 Essex County Deeds 135:87 (Elizabeth Gott to Francis Porter, 1777). Elizabeth (Rogers) (Kimball) Gott does not appear in the 1790 census for Wenham; see United States Census Bureau, 1790 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 690.

41 Essex County Deeds 123:268 (Nathaniel Gott to Francis Porter, 1777), 135:87 (Elizabeth Gott to Francis Porter, 1777), 141:172 (Francis Porter to John Page, 1784), 154:134 (John Page to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1786), 154:134 (William and Eunice Young to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1791), and 154:134 (Francis Porter to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1792). This lot is shown as Lot A in Figure 4.18. In 135:87 (1777) Elizabeth sold her interest in the portion of John Gott Jr.'s estate that had been inherited by their son John Gott 3rd (bp.1752–1775), who had predeceased her.

Figure 4.17. Gott-Porter-Kimball family tree.



provides a family tree that shows the members of the extended Gott-Porter clan who were parties to the Gott Farm deeds of 1777 through 1792.[42]

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42 For John Gott Jr. and his wives Martha Kimball (*ca.*1692–1750) and Elizabeth (Rogers) Kimball (1714–after 1777), see Appendix G in Volume 2. Widow Elizabeth Gott was assessed taxes for 1761 through 1772, inclusive, but not for subsequent years. See Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham (Taxes) Rates, Vol. 1, 1731 to 1777*, MS, 227, 231, 236, 240, 244, 248, 252, 256, 261, 265, 270, 275, 280, 290, 292, 295, 299, 305, 314, 317, 320, 323, 331 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Assessments, Poll Taxes and Estate Taxes, frames 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 145, 147, 150, 155, 156, 157, 160, 163, 168, 169, 171, 172, 176; cited subsequently as "*MS Assessments, 1731–1777,* MS").

For Eunice Gott (by 1747–after 1791) and William Young (? –after 1791), see Essex County Deeds 154:134 (William and Eunice Young to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1791), which states that the Youngs were living in Peterborough, New Hampshire. Her birth is unrecorded; she is not named in Essex County Probate 11338 (Nathaniel Gott *et al.*, guardianship, 1765), which indicates she was at least eighteen years old in 1765 and therefore born by 1747.

For John Gott 3rd (bp.1752–1775), see Essex County Probate 11338 (Nathaniel Gott *et al.*, guardianship, 1765); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 41, 201; and Findagrave.com, memorial #60732463. John Gott 3rd was assessed taxes for 1773 and 1774, but not for 1775; see Town of Wenham, *MS Assessments, 1731–1777*, MS, 343, 345, 354, (Ancestry.com, Wenham Assessments, Poll Taxes and Estate Taxes, frames 182, 183, 188).

For Martha Gott (bp.1753–1777) and Francis Porter (1748–1815), see Essex County Probate 11338 (Nathaniel Gott *et al.*, guardianship, 1765). See also Essex County Deeds 141:172 (Francis Porter to John Page, 1784), Francis living in Wenham, the deed making no mention of his wife; 154:134 (Francis Porter to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1792), Francis living in Peterborough, New Hampshire, the deed making no mention of his wife; and 159:226 (Francis Porter to Israel Porter, 1796), Francis living in Whitingham, Vermont, the deed making no mention of his wife. See also Porter (1878), 256, 278; Leonard Brown, *History of Whitingham* (Brattleboro, VT: Frank E. Housh, Publisher, 1886), 48, making reference to Francis living in Whitingham in 1801; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 42, 125, 157; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Danvers* (1909–1910), 1:276 and 2:119, 223.

For Nathaniel Gott (1755–1828), see Essex County Probate 11338 (Nathaniel Gott *et al.*, guardianship, 1765); Essex County Deeds 123:268 (Nathaniel Gott to Francis Porter, 1777); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 42; and Findagrave.com, memorial #27820665.

For Benjamin Porter (*ca.*1720–1794) and his wives Eunice Nurse (1718–1774) and Abigail Osborne (*ca.*1734–1817), see Porter (1878), 244, 256-257; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Danvers* (1909–1910), 2:200, 223, 430, 431; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Salem* (1916–1925), 2:115 and 4:132, 209; and Findagrave.com, memorials #100252722, 100252806, 100252981 and 116880603.

For Sarah Porter (1752–1791) and John Page (1751–1838), see Essex County Deeds 154: 134 (John Page to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1786), identifying Page's wife's name as Sarah; 162:158 (John Page Jr. to Jeremiah Page, 1796), identifying John Page Jr.'s grandfather as Benjamin Porter; and 162:158 (John Page, guardian, to Jeremiah Page, 1797), conveying property that had belonged to Benjamin Porter. See also Porter (1878), 256; New England Historic Genealogical Society, *Vital Records of Medford, Massachusetts, To the Year 1850* (Boston: Stanhope Press, 1907), 105; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Danvers* (1909–1910), 1:278 and 2:205, 225; Essex

The Gott-to-Porter, Porter-to-Page and Page-to-Kimball transactions are reminiscent of the contemporaneous dissolution of the Josiah Fairfield Farm discussed in Chapter 3: They hint at the financial difficulties of the post-war economy, with different members of the Gott family taking turns trying to save the family farm. **It is the Gott family's attempt to keep their farm in their family—and perhaps an appeal to their in-law Huldah (Porter) Kimball—that was the backdrop for Thomas Kimball Jr. acquiring it. And we will see that Kimball's subsequent acquisition of the neighboring Thomas Kilham House was in the context of expanding the footprint of the John Gott Jr. Farm.**

Kimball apparently moved his family into the Fiske-Gott House right after his 1786 purchase, since the 1790 Federal census shows that he was living in West Wenham at that time.[43] When Kimball bought the Gott Farm, he bought 44 acres of it. But Thomas saw opportunities to expand the farm, and he soon began a campaign to buy nearby parcels (Figure 4.18). At some point between 1788 and 1794 he bought an interest in the Thomas Kilham House, subject to Elizabeth (Appleton) Fairfield's life tenancy, an acquisition we'll discuss below. In 1791 he bought fourteen acres abutting Leach's Swamp from Nathan Wood (bp.1721–1804);[44] in 1794 twenty other acres from Nathan Wood (referred to in the deed as "Leach's Land") on the north side of proto-Maple Street;[45] in 1795 fifteen and a half acres from John Knight

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Institute, *Vital Records of Salem* (1916–1925), 6:109, 110; and Findagrave.com, memorials #813-8169 and 180494893.

43 United States Census Bureau, 1790 Federal Census, Wenham, 690.

It is noteworthy that the deed recording Kimball's 1786 purchase of the Gott Farm didn't specifically mention the Fiske-Gott House, and that the house itself wasn't mentioned in the Porter-Page-Kimball series of deeds until 1792. It would seem that, in 1790, the Kimball family was living in the Fiske-Gott House as tenants.

44 Lot C in Figure 4.18; Essex County Deeds 159:175 (Nathan Wood to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1791). For history of this lot, see Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772), third division, first parcel; and Essex County Deeds 140:237 (Moses and Elizabeth Titcomb to Nathan Wood, 1770). The Wood-to-Kimball deed refers to abutting property owned by Capt. Thomas Kimball Sr.; that lot is described in Essex County Deeds 123:133 (Jonathan Kimball [Jr.] to Thomas Kimball [Sr.], 1762).

45 Lot D in Figure 4.18; Essex County Deeds 159:175 (Nathan Wood to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1794), "Leach[']s land." For history of this lot, see Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772), third division, second parcel; and Essex County Deeds 140:237 (Moses and Elizabeth Titcomb to Nathan Wood, 1770). The southeast part of this lot was referred to as the "rye field" in Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Widow's Dower (1759), and the "old rye field" in 159:175 (1794). A combination of fencing and a stone wall separated it from Lot 2 in Figure 4.18. Maintenance of the fence and wall became a dispute

(1753–1803) at the southwest corner of proto-Maple Street and proto-Burley Street;[46] and by 1798 (deed or deeds unrecorded) two acres in Leach's Swamp and four acres abutting Leach's Swamp.[47] By the time of the 1798 state-wide tax—which fortunately for today's researchers included a detailed tally of residents' real estate holdings—Kimball's Wenham farm, including the Thomas Kilham House lot, was 108 acres large.[48]

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between Kimball and his abutters Dr. Amos and Mary (Rogers) (Gott) Putnam, requiring arbitration by the town's surveyors of fences in 1796 and 1797. See Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 4, 1796–1856*, MS, Town Clerk's Office, Wenham; and Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1776–1810* (1959), 108, 120.

This lot was later referred to as the "Spring Pasture" in Essex County Deeds 214:131 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] to Edmund Kimball, mortgage, 1817). The Spring Pasture was named for Leach's Spring, just north of the house site near 88 Maple Street; see Louis A. Dodge (attributed), "West End," MS, 1941, Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts, maps, 71.10.31.

46 Lot E in Figure 4.18; Essex County Deeds 160:90 (John Knight to Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1795). For history of this lot see Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772), fifth division, first parcel; and Essex County Deeds 137:195 ([Dr.] Amos Putnam to Benjamin Titcomb, 1779), Dr. Amos Putnam having married Daniel Gott's widow Mary (Rogers) Gott in 1760; 143:100 (Benjamin Titcomb to Moses Titcomb, 1784); 143:100 (Moses Titcomb to John Friend, 1784); 150:277 (John Friend to John Palmer, 1790), first parcel; 159:101 (John Palmer to John Knight, 1795), first parcel; and 160:38 (Hannah Friend, administrator, to John Knight, 1795), sixth parcel. For its disposition, see 204:52 (Huldah and Edmund Kimball, administrators, to Nathaniel Kimball, 1813), first parcel; and Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Second Account of the Administrator (1819), recording its sale in 1813. Proposed boundaries shown in Figure 4.18 are interpreted from Essex County Deeds 167:144 (Timothy and Lydia Leach to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1800) and 204:52 (1813), first parcel.

47 Lot F in Figure 4.18 is inferred from the 70-acre [*sic*] lot owned by Kimball identified in the Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax of 1798. See "Massachusetts and Maine: Direct Tax, 1798," online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society (2003), 6:401; and discussion of the Lieut. John Gott Lot in the Leach's Swamp section of Appendix B (Volume 1, page 152). As for Lot G in Figure 4.18, property in this location was referred to as land belonging to John Gott in Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Widow's Dower (1759), and referred to as owned by Thomas Kimball Jr. in Essex County Deeds 181:19 (Thomas Saunders to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1803).

48 "Massachusetts and Maine: Direct Tax, 1798" (2003), 6:401. Kimball's farm was tallied in four pieces: A 70-acre piece (that corresponded to Lots A, B, C, F and G in Figure 4.18, net of the 1797 sale of a lot to Samuel Fiske Jr. that corresponds to current-day 30-40 Maple Street, all of which totals closer to 68 acres than 70), a twenty-acre piece (Lot D), a fifteen-acre piece (Lot E), and a three-acre piece (likely meadow or a woodlot, as yet unlocated).

Kimball continued to expand the farm. He bought eighteen acres in 1803 from Thomas Saunders (1759–1844) on the north side of proto-Maple Street.[49] In 1805 he acquired the Farm Pasture (site of the current-day Conrad Circle neighborhood) from his father's estate.[50] He also owned fourteen acres straddling the Beverly-Wenham town line somewhere in the current-day vicinity of the airport, as well as two acres of meadow (probably in the Great Meadow)—but we can't pinpoint when he bought them, since he didn't record his deeds when he acquired these properties.[51] When Thomas died, his estate inventory included 159 acres of real estate, almost one-quarter of the town that's west of Topsfield Road.[52]

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49 Lot H in Figure 4.18; Essex County Deeds 181:19 (1803). For history of this lot see Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Widow's Dower (1759), eastern portion of 33½-acre lot; and Essex County Deeds 172:166 (Timothy Leach *et al.* to Thomas Saunders, 1803).

50 The lot was sixteen or seventeen acres large. Thomas's father bought it in 1762 (Lot I in Figure 4.18); see Essex County Deeds 123:133 (Jonathan Kimball [Jr.] to [Capt.] Thomas Kimball [Sr.], 1762). See also the discussion of the Farm Pasture at Volume 1, page 165, and Lot B in Figure B.8, Appendix B. Thomas Sr. died intestate in 1805, and his real estate was to be auctioned off in 1806 (see footnote 57). But the auction was cancelled, and Thomas Jr. was party to five deeds in 1806 in which the heirs divvied up Thomas Sr.'s real estate portfolio. Some of that property went to Jr.'s younger brother Nathaniel (1770–1855), some went to brother-in-law Edmund Batchelder (1765–1829), some went to brother-in-law Isaac Porter (1750–1837), and some went to brother-in-law Isaac Woodbury 3rd (1759–1845). (See Essex County Probate 15768 (Capt. Thomas Kimball, 1805); and Essex County Deeds 177:239 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Nathaniel Kimball, 1806), 178:203 (Edmund Kimball to Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1806), 179:5 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Edmund Batchelder, 1806), 179:86 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Isaac Porter, 1806), and 188:136 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Isaac Woodbury, 1806).) These deeds accounted for most but not all of the elder Kimball's portfolio and accounted for all of the elder Kimball's surviving children—with two exceptions. Indeed, it is curious that none of these recorded transactions assigns any land to the elder Kimball's daughter Mercy (Kimball) Perkins (1758–1848) widow of Elisha Perkins (1753–1802), or to Thomas Kimball Jr. In addition, it is noteworthy that none of the 1806 deeds treats the Farm Pasture property.

51 Essex County Deeds 204:52 (Huldah and Edmund Kimball, administrators, to Nathaniel Kimball, 1813), second and third parcels.

52 Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Inventory.

Along the way Thomas and his wife Huldah sold the interest that she had inherited in her parents' farm. See Essex County Deeds 160:189 (Thomas [Jr.] and Huldah Kimball to Caleb Oakes, 1796) and 163:258 (Thomas Jr. and Huldah Kimball to John Page, 1799).

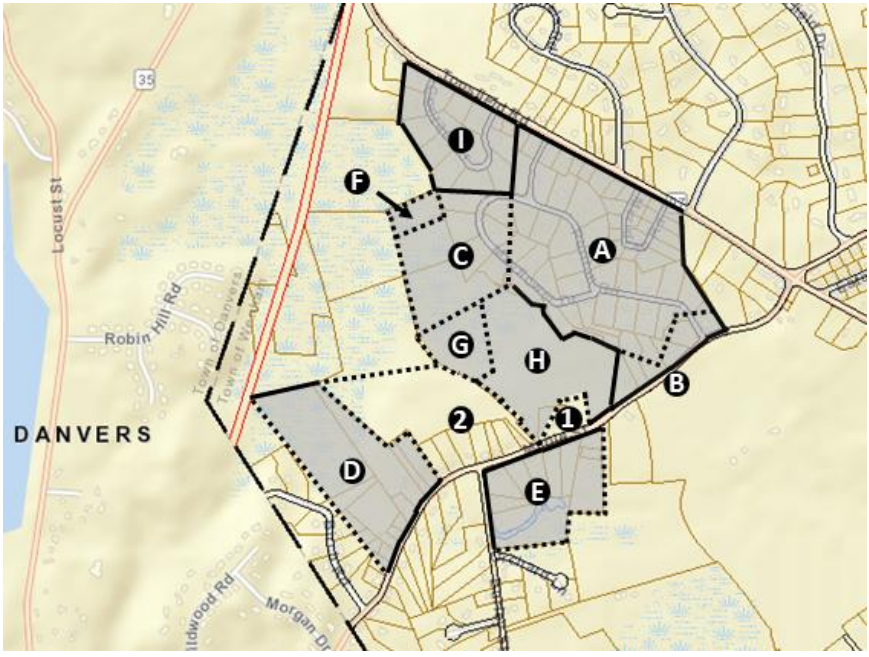
35
Locust St
Robin Hill Rd
DANVERS
Town of Danvers
Town of Wenham
Morgan Dr
I
F
C
A
G
H
B
2
1
D
E

Figure 4.18. Evolution of the Thomas Kimball Jr. Farm, 1786–1805.[53]

Constituent Lots

A. John Page to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1786
B. Partial interest from Josiah Fairfield Jr. to Thomas Kimball Jr., after 1788 and by 1794; remaining interest from Matthew Fairfield to Thomas Kimball Jr. and Joseph Fairfield, 1797
C. Nathan Wood to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1791
D. Nathan Wood to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1794, "Leach's Land," also referred to as the Spring Pasture
E. John Knight to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1795
F. Unrecorded deed, by 1798
G. Unrecorded deed, by 1798
H. Thomas Saunders to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1803
I. Estate of Thomas Kimball Sr. to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1806, subsequently referred to as the Farm Pasture

Other Lots (Not Part of the Thomas Kimball Jr. Farm)

1. The Hobbs Lot, part of the Benjamin Fairfield Farm by 1811
2. Thomas Saunders to Nathaniel Kimball, 1805; referred to as the "Hobbs Pasture" in 1836

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53 Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. This view excludes a fourteen-acre lot straddling the Beverly-Wenham town line, as well as two acres of meadow (probably in the Great Meadow), the locations of which haven't been pinpointed. Proposed boundaries for Lots 1 and 2 inform those of Lots D, G and H.

For Lot 1 (the Hobbs Lot), see Essex County Deeds 191:242 (Benjamin Fairfield *et al.* to David Woodbury, 1811), second parcel, 233:72 (Edmund Kimball to Nathaniel Kimball, 1823), and 233:144 (David Woodberry [*sic*] to Nathaniel Kimball, 1823). It is referred to as the "Hobbs Lot" in 191:242 and should not be confused with the Hobbs Lot that was part of the Thomas Kimball 3rd Farm (Figure 4.51). Adding to the researcher's fun: three deeds from 1836 refer to Lot 2 as the "Hobbs Pasture." (See Essex County Deeds 290:240 (Nathaniel Kimball to Warren Peabody, 1836), second parcel, 292:291 (Benjamin Dodge to Nathaniel Kimball, mortgage, 1836), second parcel, and 312:253 (Nathaniel Kimball to Benjamin Dodge, 1836), second parcel.)

For boundaries of Lot 2, see Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Widow's Thirds (1759); and Essex County Deeds 176:206 (Thomas Saunders to Nathaniel Kimball, 1805).

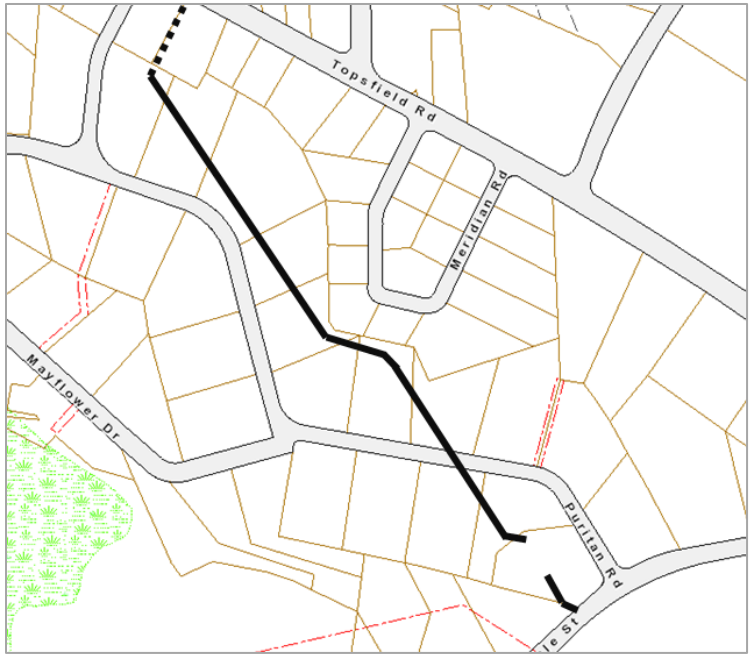


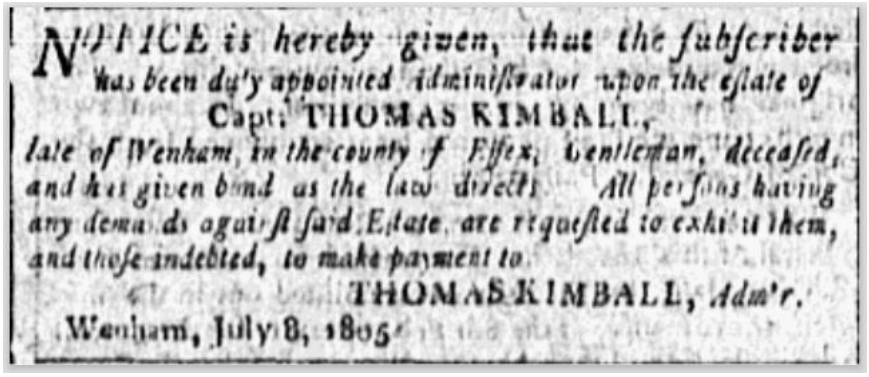
Figure 4.19. The cart path to Topsfield Road. A cart path provided a shortcut between proto-Maple Street and proto-Topsfield Road. It served as the driveway to the house, and linked the North Kimball Barn to the fields behind the house (fields that had been part of the former John Gott Jr. Farm).[54]

54 Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line sections represent high conviction, while the dotted-line sections is conjectural. For the North Kimball Barn, see Appendix I. For references to the cart path, see Essex County Deeds 163:19 (Joseph Fairfield and Thomas Kimball Jr. to Samuel Fisk[e] [Jr.], 1797), a transcription of which is in Appendix C; 194:20 (Samuel Fiske [Jr.] to Joshua Orne, 1805); 194:35 (Joshua Orne to Stephen Cook, 1811); 929:84 (Isaac Porter [Jr.] to Hiram L. Roberts, 1875), "the old way;" 708:111 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Solomon E. Kimball, 1866); 1674:262 (Hiram L. Roberts to Emma Weatherbee, 1902), second parcel; 2363:333 (Emma Weatherbee, notice 1917), first parcel; and 2363:370 (Emma Weatherbee to Solomon [E.] Kimball, 1917). See also Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Widow's Dower (1813); and 44452

Figure 4.20. Stone walls in the back yard, 2021. The stone wall in the background marks the property line between 26 and 30 Maple Street, a property line that was created in 1797 when Joseph Fairfield and Thomas Kimball Jr. sold the land on the 30 Maple Street side to Samuel Fiske Jr. The wall in the foreground (now acting as a retaining wall) appears to be the relocated remains of a wall that ran along the former cart path to Topsfield Road.[55]

(Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), Division of Estate (1847), first and fourth divisions. See also Figure 5.12 and Figure 6.1.

55 Looking to the west from the back yard of 26 Maple Street, Wenham. November 20, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The wall in the background is shown in Figure 3.29 (Chapter 3, Volume 2). See also Essex County Deeds 163:19 (Joseph Fairfield and Thomas Kimball Jr. to Samuel Fisk[e] [Jr.], 1797), a transcription of which is in Appendix C.



NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has been duly appointed administrator upon the estate of Capt. THOMAS KIMBALL, late of Wenham, in the county of Essex, Gentleman, deceased, and has given bond as the law directs. All persons having any demands against said Estate, are requested to exhibit them, and those indebted, to make payment to

THOMAS KIMBALL, Adm'r.

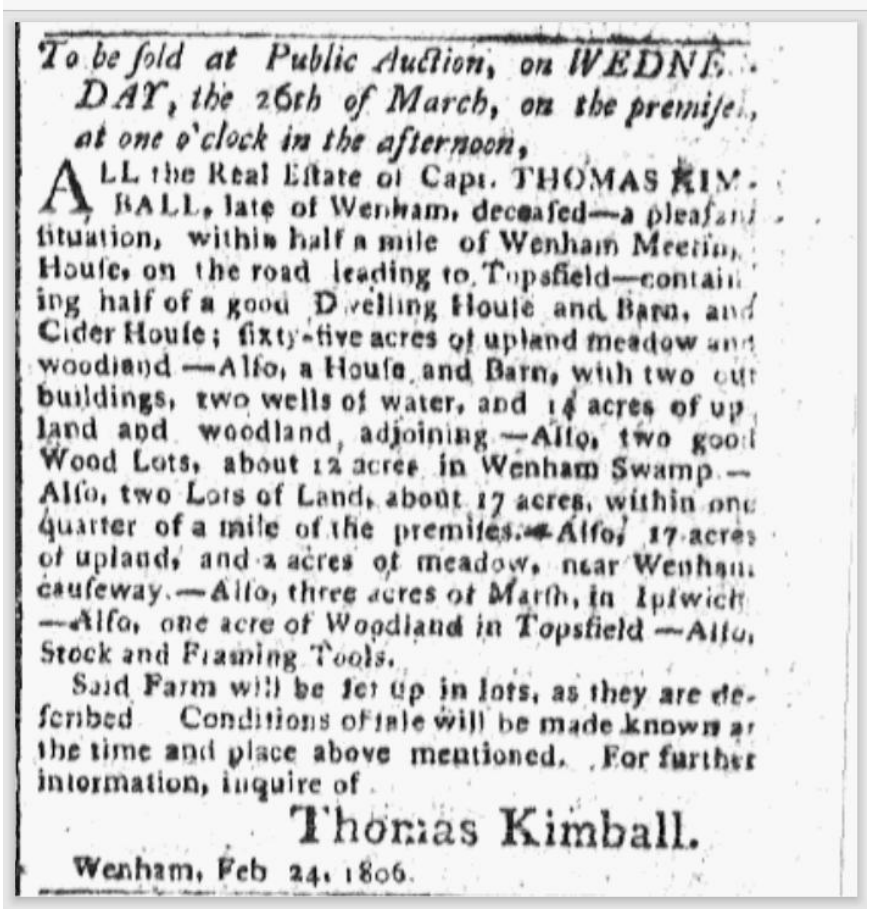
Wenham, July 8, 1805

Figure 4.21. Newspaper advertisement of the appointment of Thomas Kimball Jr. as administrator of the estate of his father Capt. Thomas Kimball Sr. (1730–1805), 1805.[56]

56 *Salem Register* [Salem, MA], July 8, 1805, 3. Transcription:

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber
has been duly appointed administrator upon the estate of
Capt. THOMAS KIMBALL,
late of Wenham, in the county of Essex, Gentleman, deceased,
and has given bond as the law directs. All persons having
any demands against said Estate are requested to exhibit them,
and those indebted, to make payment to
Thomas Kimball, Adm'r.
Wenham, July 8, 1805

The ad also ran in the *Salem Register* on July 11, 15, 18, 22 and 25, and August 1, on page 1, 4, 4, 4, 4, and 4, respectively.



To be ſold at Public Auction, on WEDNE-
DAY, the 26th of March, on the premiſes,
at one o'clock in the afternoon,

ALL the Real Eſtate of Capt. THOMAS KIM-BALL, late of Wenham, deceaſed—a pleaſant ſituation, within half a mile of Wenham Meeting-Houſe, on the road leading to Topsfield—containing half of a good Dwelling Houſe and Barn, and Cider Houſe; ſixty-five acres of upland meadow and woodland—Alſo, a Houſe and Barn, with two out buildings, two wells of water, and 14 acres of upland and woodland, adjoining—Alſo, two good Wood Lots, about 12 acres in Wenham Swamp—Alſo, two Lots of Land, about 17 acres, within one quarter of a mile of the premiſes.—Alſo, 17 acres of upland, and 2 acres of meadow, near Wenham cauſeway.—Alſo, three acres of Marſh, in Ipſwich—Alſo, one acre of Woodland in Topsfield—Alſo, Stock and Framing Tools.

Said Farm will be ſet up in lots, as they are deſcribed. Conditions of ſale will be made known at the time and place above mentioned. For further information, inquire of

Thomas Kimball.

Wenham, Feb 24, 1806.

Figure 4.22. Newspaper advertisement of the auction of Capt. Thomas Kimball Sr.'s real estate, signed by Thomas Kimball Jr., 1806.[57]

57 *Salem Gazette* [Salem, MA], February 25, 1806, 3. Transcription:

To be sold at Public Auction, on WEDNES-
DAY, the 26th of March, on the premises,
at one o'clock in the afternoon,
ALL the Real Estate of Capt. THOMAS KIM-
BALL, late of Wenham, deceased—a pleasant
situation, within a half a mile of Wenham Meeting
House, on the road leading to Topsfield—contain-

Purchase of the Thomas Kilham House and Its Incorporation Into the John Gott Jr. Farm

We saw in the last chapter that Elizabeth (Appleton) Fairfield (*ca.*1706–1800) had been living in the Thomas Kilham House for ten years after her son Matthew (1745–1813) had moved his family to New Boston, New Hampshire. We also saw that Josiah Fairfield Jr. (1747–1794) acquired an interest in the house in 1788 and sold it before his death in 1794,[58] apparently to Thomas Kimball Jr. and Joseph Fairfield (1755–1808) and apparently subject to Elizabeth's life tenancy. And we saw that Elizabeth moved to New Boston to live with Matthew's family in 1796, as evidenced by the November 1796 newspaper advertisement for the sale of the Josiah Fairfield Farm (Figure 3.46 in Chapter 3, Volume 2). But the sale was called off, and in February

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> ing half of a good Dwelling House and Barn, and Cider House; sixty-five acres of upland meadow and Woodland —Also, a House and Barn, with two out buildings, two wells of water, and 14 acres of upland and woodland adjoining —Also, two good Wood Lots, about 12 acres in Wenham Swamp — Also, two Lots of Land, about 17 acres, within one quarter of a mile of the premises. —Also 17 acres of upland, and 2 acres of meadow, near Wenham causeway. —Also, three acres of Marsh, in Ipswich —Also, one acre of Woodland in Topsfield —Also, Stock and Framing Tools.
>
> Said Farm will be set up in lots, as they are described[.] Conditions of sale will be made known at the time and place above mentioned. For further information, inquire of
>
> Thomas Kimball.
>
> Wenham, Feb 24, 1806.

The ad also ran in the *Salem Gazette* on March 4, 7, 14 and 21 on pages 3, 3, 3 and 1, respectively; and in the *Salem Register* [Salem, MA] on February 24 and 27, and March 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20 and 24, on page 3 of each edition.

58 For purchase, see Essex County Deeds 153:244 (Matthew Fairfield to [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1788), a transcription of which is in Appendix C. The deed recording Josiah Jr.'s sale of the property was not recorded. When Josiah Fairfield Jr. died in 1794 and an inventory was taken of his Wenham real estate, that inventory made no indication of a house. Although the inventory does include an entry for "Eighty Acres of Land *including the Buildings thereon* standing in the Town of Wenham @ three Pounds ten Shillings pr acre" (emphasis added), the buildings were almost certainly agricultural outbuildings such as a barn or shed(s). See York County (Maine) Probate 5492 (Josiah Fairfield, 1794), "Inventory of Josiah Fairfield's Estate Lying in Essex County," September 30, 1794.

of 1797 Thomas and Joseph bought Elizabeth's interest in the house and the associated six acres of land, cementing their ownership of the property.[59]

Joseph Fairfield's role in the 1797 transaction is a curious thing. Perhaps he was a co-buyer of the property because he and Kimball had decided to form some sort of investment partnership. They were neighbors—Thomas living on the former John Gott Jr. Farm and Joseph living on the former William Fairfield Farm (Figures 1.33-1.36 in Chapter 1, Volume 1). And both were coopers;[60] maybe they were simpatico. A more pragmatic explanation, though, is that Joseph was a party to the 1797 purchase of the Thomas Kilham House because of an ill-documented attempt to resolve conflicting claims to the property: Joseph had some sort of claim to some portion of Elizabeth (Appleton) Fairfield's land as late as 1785.[61]

The title history for the house during the 1790s is a mess. It is obscured by (1) a brief ownership by Rev. John Fairfield, (2) the absence of a deed from Rev. John to either Joseph Fairfield or Thomas Kimball Jr., and (3) the absence of deeds from Joseph Fairfield and Samuel Fiske Jr. to Kimball.

But complicating matters is that fact that in March 1797 (the month after Kimball and Joseph bought the house from Matthew Fairfield) Joseph sold a portfolio of properties in West Wenham to his cousin Rev. John Fairfield (1737–1819), including the "land [that Joseph] purchased of Capt. Mathew [*sic*] Fairfield being his Mother's dower." That part of the deed was clearly referring to Elizabeth (Appleton) Fairfield's interest in the Thomas Kilham House, but the deed didn't bother to mention

59 Essex County Deeds 162:277 (Matthew Fairfield to Thomas Kimball [Jr.] and Joseph Kimball, 1797), a transcription of which is in Appendix C. Although the deed did not articulate Matthew's legal status, Matthew sold the property as agent for his aging mother. Interestingly, the $333.33 purchase price corresponds to the $333.00 proceeds that Thomas and Huldah received twelve months earlier for selling property that she had inherited from her late father; see Essex County Deeds 160:189 (Thomas [Jr.] and Huldah Kimball to Caleb Oakes, 1796).

60 Fairfield's occupation is identified in Essex County Deeds 144:169 (Thomas Fiske to Joseph Fairfield, 1795).

61 Essex County Deeds 149:56 (Moses Titcomb to Joseph Fairfield, mortgage, 1785). See Figure 3.27 (Chapter 3, Volume 2). Kimball and Fairfield teamed up on at least one other occasion when they and John Dodge Jr. bought an acre of salt marsh in Ipswich; see Essex County Deeds 173:166 (Tristram Brown to John Dodge Jr. *et al.*, 1803).

that Joseph owned that property jointly with Kimball.[62] And … there's no deed recorded in which Rev. John conveyed the property back to Joseph Fairfield or to Kimball.

It was a title-history mess, and the mess continued. In December 1797 Joseph Fairfield and Thomas Kimball Jr. sold the front part of the Thomas Kilham House and six acres to Samuel Fiske Jr. (1773–1846), a transaction that may have been a poorly-documented mortgage.[63] When the dust had settled on the property-flipping, a triangular lot corresponding to current-day 30-40 Maple Street had been permanently subdivided-away from the Thomas Kilham House to Fiske.[64] Yet Kimball somehow became the sole owner of

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62 Essex County Deeds 162:164 (Joseph Fairfield to [Rev.] John Fairfield, 1797). Deed dated March 29, 1797 and recorded on May 27, 1797.

63 Essex County Deeds 163:19 (Joseph Fairfield and Thomas Kimball Jr. to Samuel Fisk[e] [Jr.], 1797), a transcription of which is in Appendix C. Deed dated December 8, 1797 and recorded on December 12, 1797.

The deed's description of the property is problematic. The deed appears to describe the boundaries of the triangular lot shown in Figure 3.29 (Chapter 3, Volume 2), since it uses "the lane leading to [Thomas Kimball Jr.'s] house" as an external reference point for describing the lot's boundaries. (This "lane" corresponds to the old driveway to 26 Maple Street, visible in Figure I.1 (Appendix I) and in Figure 4.19. If this triangular lot and the house lot had been the same parcel, "the lane leading to [Kimball's] house" would have been an *internal* feature of the lot, not an external reference point.) The problem with the deed's description of the property, though, is that the deed conveys "about six acres"—which is an area that's larger than the triangular lot's actual 4.8 acres. The deed also conveys "the front part of the dwelling house thereon." The Thomas Kilham House isn't actually sited on the triangular lot, but what "dwelling house" was this, if the not Thomas Kilham House?

Of note: The deed refers to Thomas Kimball Jr.'s house, without making any reference to co-ownership by Joseph Fairfield. Secondly, the sales price was exactly $10.00 more than the price Thomas and Joseph paid when they bought the house and six acres from Matthew Fairfield earlier in the year. Third, it is especially noteworthy that this deed was written on December 8, the day after Thomas and Joseph recorded their deed of purchase from Matthew Fairfield. To sum things up, this Fiske deed (163:19) wasn't written as a mortgage, but seems to have had the effect of one.

Samuel Fiske Jr., son of Samuel and Sarah (Perkins) Fiske, was born on May 7, 1773 in Ipswich, Massachusetts, and died on May 7, 1846 in Wenham. He married Sarah ("Sally") Patch, daughter of Samuel Patch of Hamilton, Massachusetts on October 17, 1795 in Wenham. She was born in 1778 and died in Wenham on March 1, 1833. See Frederick Clifton Pierce, *Fiske and Fisk Family* (Chicago: W. B. Conkey Company, 1896), 131, 200; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 119, 152, 197; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Hamilton* (1908), 54, 67.

64 For history of the lot, see Essex County Deeds 163:19 (Joseph Fairfield and Thomas Kimball Jr. to Samuel Fiske [Jr.], 1797), 194:20 (Samuel Fiske [Jr.] to Joshua Orne, 1805), and 194:35 (Joshua Orne to Stephen Cook, 1811).

the house—although there's no deed recorded in which either Samuel Fiske Jr. or Joseph Fairfield released their interest in it—and the Thomas Kilham House and house lot finally became fully incorporated into the former John Gott Jr. Farm.

The Kimball Family's Move Into the Thomas Kilham House, 1798

Despite gaps in the paper trail and ambiguously written deeds, it is clear that Thomas Kimball Jr. moved his family out of the Fiske-Gott House and into the Thomas Kilham House. Put another way: **Although the Thomas Kilham House had become incorporated into the former John Gott Jr. Farm, the Thomas Kilham House became the focal point of the newly configured Thomas Kimball Jr. Farm**. The Kimballs made the move early in 1798: The Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax of 1798 indicates that Thomas Kimball Jr. owned just one house,[65] and we can therefore surmise that the Fiske-Gott House had burned.

The Cook family subdivided the lot into a western portion and an eastern portion. For the western portion, see Essex County Deeds 325:93 (William Moulton, administrator, to Joseph Hodges, 1841), first parcel, 343:263 (Samuel S. Cook to Stephen Cook, 1844), second deed, 346:244 (Joseph Hodges to Samuel S. and Stephen Cook, 1844), 1743:365 (William C. Low, executor, to Frank Edwards, 1904), first parcel, 2025:13 (Frank Edwards to Frances P. Daniels, 1910), first parcel, and 2968:190 (Frances P. Daniels to Mary B. Amory, 1933), second parcel; and Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 ("Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham," 1910). For the eastern portion, see Essex County Deeds 608:220 (Stephen Cook to George W. Kimball, 1860), 722:215 (George W. Kimball to Abraham Patch Jr. 1867), first parcel, 741:273 (George W. Kimball to Jacob A. Towne, 1868), 790:15 (Jacob A. Towne to Sylvanus Porter, 1870), 924:158 (Sylvanus Porter to Albert Simons, 1875), 927:53 (Albert Simons to Edward F. White, 1875), 936:18 (Edward F. White to Henry S. Kent, 1875), 1092:90 (Albert Putnam *et al.* to I. Walter Norwood, 1882), 1451:472 (I. Walter Norwood to John W. L Moulton, 1886), 2297:368 (Elizabeth Q. Moulton to Frances P. Daniels, 1915), and 2968:190 (Frances P. Daniels to Mary B. Amory, 1933), fifth parcel.

For subsequent history of the combined lots, see Essex County Deeds 3740:470 (John S. and Mary B. Amory to Martha K. Stevens, 1950), 4164:252 (Martha K. Stevens to Evelyn V. Haszard, 1955), 5657: 35 (Evelyn V. Haszard to Warren K. and Nancy R. Wentworth, 1969), 6652:634 (Warren K. and Nancy R. Wentworth to Roy M. and Isabel L. Palmquist, 1979), 6933:425 (Evelyn V. Haszard to Owen I. and Evelyn V. Haszard, 1982), 13707:77 (Evelyn V. Haszard to Arlene R. Cronin *et al.*, 1996, 17721:226 (Arlene R. Cronin *et al.* to JEDJAM Development Corp., 2001), and 25625:492 (Roy M. and Isabel L. Palmquist to Steven S. and Jennifer L. Forsey, 2006). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 79:65 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Mary B. Amory," 1950) and Plan 115:69 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Evelyn V. Haszard," 1969).

65 "Massachusetts and Maine: Direct Tax, 1798" (2003), 6:361. It's worth nothing that Kimball's estate inventory of 1811 listed only one house, even though the estate still owned the

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The Formerly Enslaved People Down the Road, 1790 & 1800

By the time of the Revolution the practice of enslavement was on the decline in Wenham and neighboring towns. After the Revolution, there was an exodus of formerly enslaved people seeking jobs in population centers like Salem and Boston. The Federal census of 1790 tallied just ten people of color in Wenham, 2% of the population. There were eight people in the 1800 census, five in the 1810 census, an undetermined number in the 1820 census, and just one—Phyllis (Bryant) Freeman (*ca.*1760–1859)—in the 1830 census. While some formerly enslaved people adopted their former enslavers' surnames, others adopted the surnames Black or Brown or Freeman.[66]

Scipio Black was the head of a three-person household in the 1790 census, apparently living along or near Flint Street.[67] Scipio Freeman was the head of a four-person household in the 1800 census, apparently living on Topsfield Road.[68]

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sites of both houses. Furthermore, when Huldah (Porter) Kimball's widow's third was set off from the rest of the farm in 1813, it is clear that she was living in the Thomas Kilham House. Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Inventory (1811) and Widow's Dower (1813), transcriptions of which are in Appendix D.

66 Corcoran, *Enslaved People & Wenham* (2024), 7-8.

67 United States Census Bureau, 1790 Federal Census, Wenham, 690. We need to be mindful of the risk of census-taker wanderer error, *i.e.*, the risk that a given entry might actually *not* be in geographic order. In the 1790 census the Scipio Black household appears after that of Josiah Ober (1719–1797) and before that of Bartholomew Dodge (1712–1793)—or, between current-day 140 Cherry Street and 128 Topsfield Road (see Corcoran, *Wenham Soldiers & Sailors* (2025), 64, 173).

68 United States Census Bureau, 1800 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 563. The "Sippeo" Freeman household appears after that of Israel Friend (1771–1822) and before that of James Friend Jr. (1741–1831)—or, between 114 Cedar Street (*i.e.*, the intersection of Topsfield Road and Cedar Street) and 78 Topsfield Road. Israel Friend was a son of John Friend 3rd (1739–1793) and Hannah (Wells) Friend (bp. 1744–1829) who owned the house at 114 Cedar Street. For genealogy and locations of both Friend residences, see the James Friend (*ca.*1633–1718) section of Appendix G. No mention of enslaved workers in the estate inventory of James Jr.'s father James Friend (1711–1773), per Essex County Probate 10206 (James Friend, 1773). Recognizing the risk of census-taker wanderer error, but acknowledging

A Scipio (no surname recorded) and Phoebe had "a young child" who died in Wenham on June 12, 1784. A Scipio (no surname recorded) and Venus had a four-year-old daughter (name not recorded) who died in Wenham on November 11, 1788. And Scipio and Venus also had another child (gender and name not recorded) who died in Wenham on March 9, 1795. It is tempting to hypothesize that the Scipio who partnered with Phoebe, the Scipio who partnered with Venus, and the Scipio Black from the 1790 census were the same man. But we can't know with certainty whether this was the case—especially when a man was at the lowest range of the economic ladder and therefore wouldn't have left much of a paper trail. In addition, there was a certain amount of fluidity in the use of surnames by enslaved and formerly enslaved men, and it is conceivable that Scipio Black and Scipio Freeman were actually the same man.[69]

A Scipio—surname not recorded and identified as "an African and [p]auper"—was buried in Wenham on April 16, 1811 aged about 70 years.[70] (Was he indeed born in Africa, or was the word "African" used generically? Where was he buried?) Having been born around 1741, he *could* have been Scipio Black or Scipio Freeman.

the absence of any other houses between 114 Cedar Street and 78 Topsfield Road during this period, it appears that the Freemans were tenants of either Israel Friend or James Friend Jr.

69 Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1643–1805*, MS, 188; Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS, 34; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 227; and Corcoran, *Enslaved People & Wenham* (2024), 225-2227.

70 Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS, 34; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 227. No "Scipio" appears in the 1810 census. No household tallied in the 1810 census consisted solely of people of color. (But, if an African American family didn't answer the door, isn't it possible that the census-taker might have ignored that household altogether and not returned to complete the tally of that household?)

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Mileposts and the First Wenham Canal, 1800

In 1800—when travelling on land was on foot, on horseback or in a horse-pulled vehicle—it was a matter important enough for town meeting to decide where to position mileposts. Wooden signs were put up at the intersection of current-day Cherry Street and Topsfield Road (pointing to Haverhill, Topsfield and Danvers Plains), and at the intersection of current-day Cherry Street and Stage Hill Road (formerly part of Flint Street, pointing to Beverly and Wenham Center).[71]

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The same year, Col. Joshua Burnham (1754–1835) dug a canal from Cedar Pond to Wenham Lake, with the intent of building a water-powered mill on the lake.

> Accordingly the trench was dug, and the water drawn off till nearly the whole of the bottom of the pond was laid bare. Snakes, eels, fish and turtles were found in great abundance, but the spring which was to furnish a constant supply of water power was wanting, and the project of a great manufactory to be carried by it, was at an end.

No mill was built.[72]

71 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1776–1810* (1959), 139-140. Note that the sign at what is now the intersection of Cherry Street and Topsfield Road didn't also point to Beverly; proto-Topsfield Road didn't yet extend south of this intersection. See Figures 3.47-3.48 and 4.44-4.45.

72 Myron O. Allen, *The History of Wenham* (Boston: Bazin & Chandler, 1860), 18-19. See also William Parker Cutler and Julia Perkins Cutler, *Life, Journals and Correspondence of Rev. Manasseh Cutler, LL.D.* (Cincinnati, OH: Robert Clarke & Co., 1888), 2:39; Cole (1943), 89; and Findagrave.com, memorial #15842801.

The Kimball Family's Renovation of the House

A number of changes were made to the house in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. We saw in Chapter 3 (Volume 2, pages 175-178) that the second floor was expanded by 1809, a project that was commissioned by the Fairfield family or perhaps Thomas Kimball Jr. In addition, decorative renovations were made that were likely commissioned by Thomas Jr. (or, if not by him, by subsequent owner Thomas Kimball 3rd): New fireplace surrounds, encasement of beams, a new staircase in the front hall, and perhaps a new staircase in the back hall.

The two Federal-period fireplace surrounds are quite different from each other, particularly with respect to overall proportions, size of fireplace opening, and use of molding. The southeast composition has a horizontal feeling to it while the southwest composition has a vertical feeling.

The fireplace surround in the second floor southeast room (Figure 4.25) is in a style that was popular during the Federal period and therefore dates from as early as *ca.*1790 to as late as *ca.*1820. It is 5' 6" wide (the projecting shelf being 5' 8¼" wide) by 4' 5¼" tall, with a fireplace opening that is 4' 1" wide by 2' 7½" tall, and a "picture frame" of molding setting off the opening that is 5' 6" wide by 3' 6½" tall. The mantel shelf is 5" deep. Its edge is finished in a complex series of moldings of 2½" height and is supported by another strip of molding.[73] Beneath this is an unadorned frieze of 7" height. The picture frame repeats part of the series of moldings in the mantel shelf[74] and the innermost edge of the wooden portion of the surround is finished with a simple bead. The hearth is six rows of red brick.

The fireplace surround in the second floor southwest room (Figures 4.24 and 4.26), like that in the second floor southeast room, is from the Federal period. It is 5' 2" wide by 4' 7" tall, with a fireplace opening that is 3' 4" wide by 2' 11" tall, and a picture frame that is 4' 9 ½" wide by 3' 8¾" tall. The edge of the mantel shelf is finished in a profile of 1½" height; the shelf is

73 The edge of the shelf, moving top to bottom, is finished with a step (*i.e.*, a vertical surface followed by a horizontal one), a diagonal reveal, a step, an ovolo, and two receding steps. The molding supporting the shelf is inset 2¾" from each side of the exterior edges of the surround, and consists of a step, an ovolo, and another step.

74 A step, an ovolo, and a step—*i.e.*, the middle portion of the mantel shelf molding series.

supported by a sub-shelf with a simple step molding, and another crown profile beneath the sub-shelf of 1½" height.[75] Beneath this is an unadorned frieze of 7" height. The final series of moldings, enclosing the fireplace opening, is 5" high, organized visually in three bands.[76] The hearth is three rows of 7¾" × 7¾" yellow-glazed tiles.

Continuing with the architectural ornamentation of the second floor southwest room, it should be noted that (in addition to the fireplace surround), the room incorporates unadorned encasement of the posts and beams. The north wall plate is an amusing example of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century practice of allowing framing members to cure *in situ*[77]—where the weight of the summer beam has caused the plate to bow. It is certainly possible that encasement of the posts and beams was done earlier in the eighteenth century, but it may be that encasement was done as part of the same renovation project that included replacement of this room's fireplace surround.[78]

The final element to discuss of the Federal-period renovation program is the staircase in the front hall. The system of stairs in the front hall that originally connected the ground and second floors was likely a single run that incorporated winders.[79] Its replacement is a triple run with two landings, entered on the ground floor from the left (Figure 4.27). The first run of steps

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75 The edge of the shelf, moving top to bottom, is a vertical surface followed by a reverse-ogee surface (*i.e.*, concave then convex) and a step, then a vertical surface. The second profile, supporting the sub-shelf, is a step followed by an ovolo, followed by five receding steps.

76 The first band is a series of molding consisting of a vertical surface, followed by a groove, an ogee surface, and a step. The second band is a plain surface whose lower edge is finished with a step, ovolo, and another step. The third band is a plain surface with a raised bead slightly offset from the lower-most edge of the composition.

77 See the discussion of Nathaniel Bragg (1701–1790) in Appendix G (Volume 2, pages 237-239).

78 The room also incorporates a chair rail, the oldest run of which seems to be along the west wall. But the chair rail hasn't been examined stripped of its paint, and therefore its age has yet to be determined.

79 Abbott Lowell Cummings, *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625–1725* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979), 162-167.

The stairs that originally connected the second floor and attic likely had the same configuration and were located immediately above the ground-floor stairs. The framing of the stairs' resolution in the attic is still visible; see Figures H.7 and H.8 in Appendix H. The Federal-period replacement of the stair system may also have included replacement of the stairs connecting the second floor with the attic. Given the twentieth-century vintage of the pull-down stairs in the changing room, one wonders whether the Federal-period second-floor stairs were

has a wainscoting treatment that transitions into a baseboard that trims the second and third runs of steps. Each tread is trimmed with a strip of molding (comprised of a cove and simple bead) beneath both its long and short edges. Each stair has two balusters (or one baluster and a newel post). Newel posts are 2½" × 2½" in section; balusters are ¾" × ⅞" in section, neither newels nor balusters having any turnings.

The stairs in the back hall originally would have been entered at the opposite end of where they do today (*i.e.*, they would have been entered at the north end of the hall), since they would have been built when that portion of the house was a lean-to. A lean-to wouldn't have provided enough headroom for the current configuration of the stairs. The direction of the stairs was reversed in 1959 to accommodate the installation of the power room.[80] The handrail at the second-floor level of these stairs (which matches the handrail system of the stairs in the front hall) might be a reproduction of an earlier handrail.

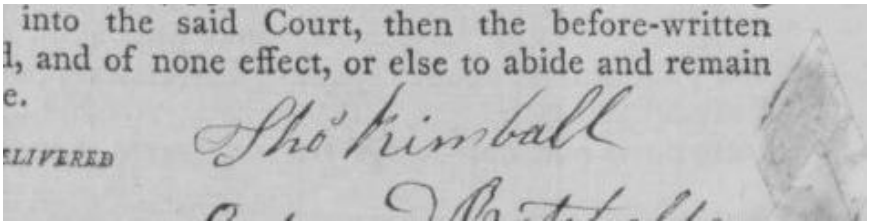

Figure 4.23. Signature of Thomas Kimball Jr., 1805.[81]

indeed removed as late as the twentieth century? Perhaps part of Evelyn Pescosolido's renovations, discussed at pages 244-262?

80 Virginia Bohlin, "Fire Ravaged Room A Stern Reminder," *Boston Traveler*, November 20, 1962, 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q: " … a powder room which had been fitted into a closet with no window was moved to an outside wall location."

81 Essex County Probate 15768 (Capt. Thomas Kimball, 1805), Administrators' Bond. His father having just died, Thomas Jr. omitted the "Jr." from this signature.

Comparing the Designs of the Federal-Period Fireplace Surrounds

The designs of both fireplace surrounds (Figures 4.24-4.26)[82] are visually based on three rectangles, each rectangle using the floor as one of its sides: In both cases the innermost rectangle is the respective fireplace opening, the middle rectangle is a frame of molding offset from the fireplace opening (the "picture frame") and the outermost rectangle is the external edges of the entire surround as a whole. In both cases the fireplace opening is fourteen bricks high. But the proportions of the two compositions are very different.

In the southeast example, the picture frame uses the same 1.55:1 width: height proportions as the fireplace opening. The upper edge of the picture frame provides a reference point for the rest of the composition: The height of the overall fireplace surround was determined such that the top edge of the picture frame is halfway between the fireplace opening and the top of the surround.

While the southeast composition seems to have been grounded on the size of the fireplace opening, the southwest composition is grounded in neat and tidy integers: The proportions of the surround are very nearly 9:8 and those of the fireplace opening are 8:7. In addition, it's no coincidence that the 7" dimension of the frieze is equal to the difference between the surround's overall width and its overall height; it's not a randomly-chosen dimension. It's as if the carpenter-designer started by drawing a 9:8 rectangle and worked his way inward.

82 The fireplace surround in the second floor room to the north of the chimney is a replacement that was installed after the fire of 1959. The prior fireplace surround was thought to date from the same period as the other fireplace surrounds on the second floor; see Rupert B. Lillie, "Killam-Fairfield-Kimball House" (1977), in Anne Grady, "First Period Survey: Solomon Kimball House" (1985), Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, Inventory No. WNH.121, Massachusetts Historical Commission. Lillie visited the house multiple times, the earliest visit in 1950. He thought, however, that the surviving second-floor fireplace surround dated to the mid-eighteenth century and not the Federal period.

Figure 4.24. Fireplace, second floor southwest room, 1982.[83]

83 1982 photograph by Rupert B. Lillie (1907–1996), a copy of which appears in Connie Fairfield Ganz, *The Fairfields of Wenham* (Newberg, OR: Allegra Print & Imaging, 2013), 181.

Figure 4.25. Fireplace and closet, west wall of the second floor south-east room, 2021.[84]

84 November 16, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

Figure 4.26. Fireplace and closet, east wall of second floor southwest room, 2021.[85]

85 November 4, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

Figure 4.27. Staircase, front hall, 2021.[86]

86 November 4, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

Wenham Housebuilders at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century

Renovations were made during the Federal period that entailed replacement of fireplace surrounds, replacement of the front staircase, a new railing for the back staircase (if not also replacement of that staircase), and perhaps encasement of second-floor beams. The list below captures carpenters who were active in Wenham during the period 1790–1820—three of whom were members of the Kimball family—and therefore could have done the renovation work.[87]

Carpenters & Housewrights

- **Isaac Gallop (1785–1862)** was identified as a housewright in deeds from 1815 and 1817, and a carpenter in deeds from 1832 and later.
- **Caleb Kimball Jr. (1774–1855)**, at one time an employee or subcontractor of Daniel Moulton, was a third cousin of Thomas Kimball Jr. Caleb referred to himself as a housewright in deeds from 1797 and 1799, and as a wheelwright in various deeds from 1799 through 1819, apparently changing his occupation in 1799.
- **Capt. Edmund Kimball (1786–1879, Figure 4.7)**, son of Thomas Jr. and Huldah (Porter) Kimball, grew up in the Thomas Kilham House. He was a merchant by 1817 and later a ship owner. But at the start of his career he was a housewright, identified as such in deeds and probate documents from 1810 through 1818 (and as a carpenter in 1815), albeit living in Marblehead, Massachusetts.[88] *Continued* …

87 See Appendix G for references for the tradesmen listed here, with the exception of Capt. Edmund Kimball (references for whom follow below). This list is likely incomplete; further research may identify additional carpenters working in Wenham during this period.

88 For occupation as housewright, living in Marblehead, see Essex County Deeds 191:271 (John and Sarah Caswell to Edmund Kimball, 1810), 191:271 (William Jenks to Edmund Kimball, 1810), 195:114 (Edmund Kimball to Jason Chamberlain, 1811), 204:52 (Huldah and Edmund Kimball, administrators, to Nathaniel Kimball, 1813), 204:151 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Lydia Florence, 1814), 208:275 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to John Beck, 1816), 208:287 (John Davis to Edmund Kimball *et al.*, 1815), 211:209 (Jonathan Roundey to Edmund Kimball,

- **Nathaniel Kimball (1770–1855)** was a younger brother of Thomas Kimball Jr. Nathaniel's occupation seems to have been a fluid thing, going back and forth from carpentry and housebuilding to wheelmaking. He was referred to as a carpenter in deeds from 1793 through 1809. In 1802 he was an employee of, or subcontractor to, carpenter Daniel Moulton.
- **Daniel Moulton (1772–1845)** was active as a carpenter as early as 1794. He employed, or subcontracted work to, fellow carpenter Nathaniel Kimball, housewright Caleb Kimball Jr., and (probably) bricklayer Israel Andrews Dodge (1749–1823).
- **Isaac Porter (1750–1837)** was referred to as a carpenter in a deed from 1771 and was bequeathed his father's carpentry tools in 1786. He is an intriguing candidate for the renovation work because he was a brother-in-law of Thomas Kimball Jr.

mortgage, 1814), 211:210 (Thomas Roundey to Edmund Kimball, mortgage, 1814), 218:76 (Edmund Kimball to Elijah W. Roundey, 1818), and 220:68 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1815). See also Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Administrators' Bonds (1811, 1813).

For occupation as carpenter, living in Marblehead, see Essex County Deeds 208:275 (Edmund Kimball to John Beck, 1815).

For occupation as merchant, living in Newburyport, see Essex County Deeds 214:131 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] to Edmund Kimball, mortgage, 1817), 215:207 (Edmund Kimball to Edmund Coffin *et al.*, 1817), 219:305 (Nathaniel Potter to Edmund Kimball, 1819), 219:305 (Paul Porter to Edmund Kimball, 1819), and 219:306 (Edmund Wingate to Edmund Kimball, mortgage, 1819).

The Kimball Family's Use of the Rooms

In 1813, Thomas Kimball Jr. having died two years earlier, his heirs assigned ownership of the west side of the house (cellar, ground floor, second floor and attic) to his widow Huldah:

> … The westerly lower room also the bedroom on the westerly part of the kitchen also the previlage [*sic*] of the kitchen for washing baking and setting pots kittles [*sic*] &c – also the previlage to pass and repass in or ought [*sic*] at the back doors [*sic*] in sd dweling [*sic*] House together with the previlage to pass and repass at the front Door and the improvement of the one half of the front entry with the whole of the Culler [*sic*] under the west front room – also the westerly front and back Chamber with the Garrot over the same with the previlage to pass and repass at all times to or from the same[.][89]

The "westerly lower room" was the ground floor southwest room, *i.e.*, the current-day dining room. The phrase "the bedroom on the westerly part of the kitchen" tells us two things: (1) the kitchen in Huldah's day was the ground floor room to the north of the chimney, and (2) the current-day kitchen was a bedroom. (It must have been a rather cold bedroom in wintertime, since there's no cellar beneath it and it didn't have a fireplace.) The phrase "the westerly front and back Chamber" tells us not just that the second floor southwest room was a bedroom, but also that the area corresponding to the current day changing room and master bathroom constituted a small bedroom (*i.e.*, the "back Chamber").

By 1816, though, the "western chambers" of the house had come to be occupied by Kimball's daughter and son-in-law Sally and Matthew Leach Jr., who had married in 1814. That year Matthew sold to his brother-in-law Thomas Kimball 3rd Leach's furniture that was in those chambers: A sofa, a secretary, a pair of card tables, a light stand, two sets of "yellow and dark chairs," an English carpet, a pair of andirons, two looking glasses, cooking utensils, a bedstead and bedding, a clock, an organ, a set of fireplace shovel and tongs, a pair of bellows, two "common breakfast tables" and a dressing table. Thus, one of the "western chambers" was used as a bedroom while the other seems to have been some sort of sitting room.[90] (Huldah lived until

89 Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Widow's Dower (1813), a transcription of which is in Appendix D.

90 Essex County Deeds 212:21 (Matthew Leach to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1816), second document, denoted as a "bill of sale" in the margin of the record book. He sold the furniture for $200.00, and the same day also sold to Thomas 3rd (for $300.00) the west half of a house on Liberty Street, Salem, a house where Leach was not living. (See Essex County Deeds 212:21 (Matthew Leach to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1816), first document.) The reason for recording

1835; it's anyone's guess why she moved out of the western rooms of the second floor and her daughter and son-in-law moved in.)

Farmscape and the Disposition of Thomas Jr.'s Estate

The 1813 document that defined Huldah (Porter) Kimball's portion of her late husband's estate provides insight into the farmscape. It mentions a "new barn," an "old barn," a "corn barn" and an "old shop," and assigned ownership of half the corn barn and "the westerly part of the new barn" to Huldah. The document makes it sound like the "old barn" was further away from the house (probably formerly associated with the former John Gott Jr. Farm that Thomas Kimball had acquired between 1786 and 1792) and the "new barn" was closer to the house.[91] Thus, the barn that used to be immediately to the north of the house (Figures I.2-I.3, Appendix I, Volume 2) is a strong contender for the "new barn" identified in Kimball's probate file.

The 1813 document also tells us that there was an orchard in the vicinity of current-day 2 Puritan Road. Huldah received the orchard as part of the estate settlement,[92] as well as the Long Field[93] and the combined Great,

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the sale of furniture in this way is unexplained. Could it be that mariner Capt. Matthew was selling his furniture and his income property in preparation for a long voyage? The dollar amounts of the transactions are curious: Two rooms of furniture worth two-thirds the value of half a house?

As for the furniture itself, perhaps the "yellow and dark chairs" were yellow-and-black painted chairs and not upholstered chairs. The English carpet and the organ suggest that Matthew and Sally's taste may have favored newer, fashionable things rather than inherited heirlooms. Although the secretary could have been used for storage of clothing, note that that the sale of furniture didn't include a chest of drawers.

91 Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Inventory (1811) and Widow's Dower (1813), transcriptions of which are in Appendix D.

92 Lot A in Figure 4.29. For boundaries, see *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (Boston: Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co., 1910), plate 34; and Essex County Deeds Plans 79:50 ("Subdivision Plan of Land Belonging to Loreen C. Bromley, Wenham, Mass.," 1950) and 1961:741 ("Plan of Land Owned by Loreen C. Bromley, Wenham, Mass.," 1961).

93 Lot B in Figure 4.29. Boundaries are based on the stone walls shown in Essex County Deeds Certificate Plans 6305A ("Plan of Land in Wenham," 1916), sheet 2; 6305B ("Subdivision Plan of Land in Wenham," 1948) and 6305C ("Subdivision Plan of Land in Wenham," 1950). Boundaries are also based on the stone walls shown in Essex County Deeds Plans 79:50 ("Subdivision Plan of Land Belonging to Loreen C. Bromley, Wenham, Mass.," 1950), 88:54 ("Plan & Profile, Puritan Road," 1955), and 90:89 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Owned by Eldridge T. Davis," 1956).

Round and Swamp Pastures (Figure 4.29).[94]

The settling of Thomas Kimball Jr.'s estate entailed the auction of multiple pieces of property, done by court order to pay off his debts (Figure 4.28). In 1813 the administrators of his estate (widow Huldah and son Edmund) sold three properties to Thomas Jr.'s younger brother Nathaniel Kimball (1770–1855): the lot at the corner of proto-Maple Street and proto-Burley Street, a fourteen-acre parcel straddling the Beverly-Wenham town line somewhere in the current-day vicinity of the airport, and two acres of meadow (probably in the Great Meadow).[95] The administrators also auctioned twelve acres to Peter Dodge Jr. (1764–1844), three acres of salt marsh to Nathaniel's son Josiah Moulton Kimball (1794–1825), an acre to Stephen Cook (1781–1840), and half an acre to Joseph White (1762?– ?).[96]

The settling of the estate had its share of controversy. In 1819—eight years after Thomas Jr.'s death—Thomas Kimball 3rd and his brother-in-law Edmund Batchelder Jr. (Figure 4.13) complained to the probate court that the estate's administrator Capt. Edmund Kimball (Figure 4.7) had "collected diverse sums of money & received monies from the sale of [Kimball Jr.'s] real estate" which had not been duly accounted for, and had never made a final settlement of the estate. Edmund Kimball dutifully filed an account of the estate shortly afterward; there's no further mention of the matter in the surviving documents in Kimball's probate file.[97]

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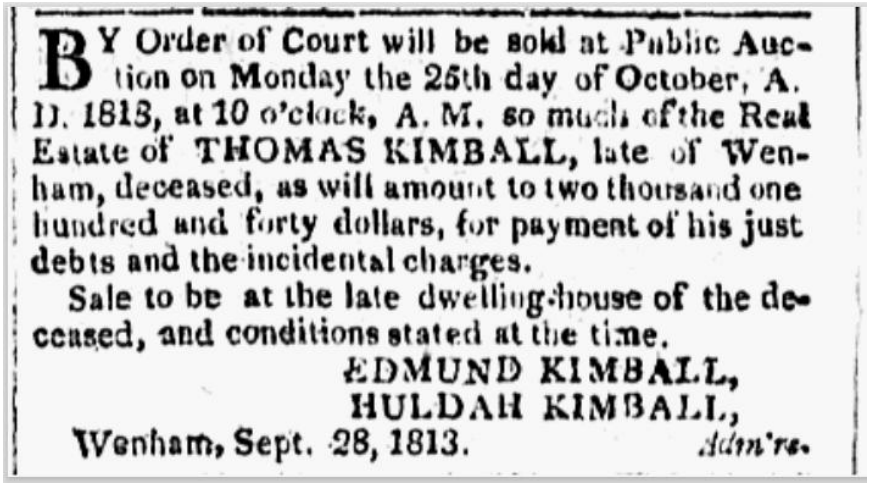
94 Lot C in Figure 4.29. For the southeast boundary, see the description of the boundary with the widow's dower in Essex County Deeds 233:72 (Edmund Kimball to Nathaniel Kimball, 1823). See also the stone walls shown in Essex County Deeds Plans 120:46 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1971), 122:33 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Prepared for Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1972), 123:17 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Drawn for Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1972), and 258:44 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Ma., Prepared for Robert S. Vernick, Charlotte O. Vernick," 1989). See also Plan 97:62 ("Plan of Land Owned by Tacona Company, Inc., Wenham," 1961).

95 Essex County Deeds 204:52 (Huldah and Edmund Kimball, administrators, to Nathaniel Kimball, 1813), first parcel; and Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Second Account of the Administrator (1819). The first parcel was Lot E in Figure 4.18; the precise locations of the other two parcels have yet to be determined.

96 Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Second Account of the Administrator (1819); and Essex County Deeds 211:229 (Huldah and Edmund Kimball, administrators, to Josiah M. Kimball, 1815), the deed written a year and a half after the auction. Neither Dodge, Cook nor White recorded their deeds. Joseph White is difficult to identify; was he the Joseph White who was born in Danvers in 1762?

97 Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Complaint (1819) and Second Account of the Administrator (1819).



BY Order of Court will be sold at Public Auction on Monday the 25th day of October, A. D. 1813, at 10 o'clock, A. M. so much of the Real Estate of THOMAS KIMBALL, late of Wenham, deceased, as will amount to two thousand one hundred and forty dollars, for payment of his just debts and the incidental charges.

Sale to be at the late dwelling-house of the deceased, and conditions stated at the time.

EDMUND KIMBALL,
HULDAH KIMBALL,

Wenham, Sept. 28, 1813. *Adm'rs.*

Figure 4.28. Newspaper advertisement of the auction of Thomas Kimball Jr.'s real estate, 1813.[98]

98 *Salem Gazette* [Salem, MA], September 28, 1813, 3. Transcription:

BY Order of Court will be sold at Public Auction on Monday the 25th day of October, A. D. 1813, at 10 o'clock, A. M., so much of the Real Estate of THOMAS KIMBALL, late of Wenham, deceased, as will amount to two thousand one hundred and forty dollars, for payment of his just debts and the incidental charges.

Sale to be at the late dwelling-house of the deceased, and conditions stated at the time.

EDMUND KIMBALL,
HULDAH KIMBALL,

Wenham, Sept. 28, 1813. *Adm'rs.* [Administrators]

The ad also ran in the *Salem Gazette* on October 1, 5, 8 and 19 on pages 3, 3, 1 and 1, respectively.

Ownership of the Farm During Huldah's Tenure

Huldah survived her husband by almost twenty-five years, enjoying life tenancy in the Thomas Kilham House and the 52-acre widow's third that was set off for her from the rest of the farm (Figure 4.29). Third-eldest son Thomas Kimball 3rd lived on the farm during this time[99] and would eventually buy out his siblings, acquiring full ownership of the house and much of the adjacent land once Huldah died in 1835. But his path to acquisition was a complex one (Figure 4.30). In the following discussion we'll refer to the "corpus" of the Thomas Kimball Jr. Farm to denote the portion of the farm *other than* Huldah's widow's third. We'll see that ownership interests in the corpus shifted multiple times among Thomas Jr.'s surviving children, and we'll see that the footprint of the corpus shrank as the farm became subdivided.

Thomas Kimball Jr. had eight surviving children when he died. Thomas 3rd soon began buying out his siblings' interests in the corpus of the farm, starting—via two transactions—with brother John, brother Edmund and sister Betsey.[100] Thus, since Thomas 3rd already owned one-eighth and each of his three siblings also owned one-eighth, by 1815 he came to own one undivided half of the corpus of the farm.

Continued on p. 66

99 United States Census Bureau, 1820 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 211; 1830 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 512; and 1840 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5.

100 Essex County Deeds 203:248 (John Kimball to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1814) and 220:68 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1815).

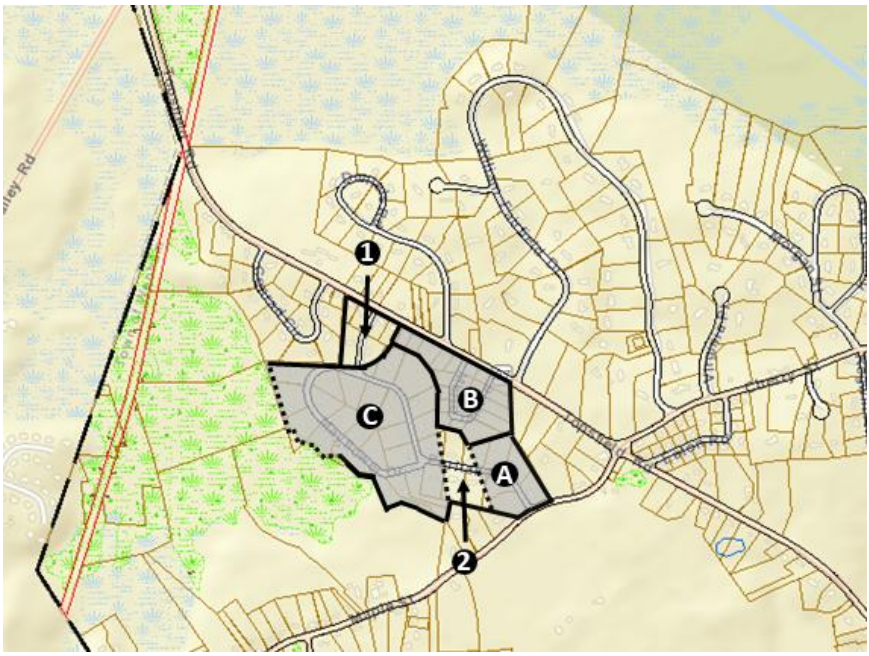


Figure 4.29. Huldah (Porter) Kimball's widow's third, 1813.[101]

Constituent Lots

A. The Orchard and House Lot
B. The Long Field
C. Combination of the Great Pasture, Round Pasture and Swamp Pasture

Other Lots (Not Part of Huldah's Widow's Third)

1. The Upper Field, to Thomas Kimball 3rd, 1823
2. "The Close," a combination of "mowing land" and a garden, by 1847

101 Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. This map corrects the one shown as Figure D.1 in Appendix D. Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Widow's Dower (1813), a transcription of which is in Appendix D. Huldah's widow's third included lots in Wenham Swamp and Leach's Swamp that are not shown here. The Upper Field is described in Essex County Deeds 233:86 (Edmund Kimball to Thomas Kimball [3rd], deed and mortgage, 1823), first parcel, and appears in Figure 5.12. The Close is described in Essex County Probate 44452 (Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), Division of Estate (1847), first division. ("The Close" was apparently a commonly used term at the time.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The War of 1812

The Federalist party opposed the War of 1812 because it impeded the ability to trade with England. The Democratic-Republican party, in contrast, treated the conflict as a second war of independence. Town residents Hon. Timothy Pickering (1745–1829) and Dr. Daniel Kilham 6th (1753–1841) argued the Federalist and the Democratic-Republican positions respectively. "On one occasion, they commenced a debate respecting the war, after the close of the morning session of the annual town meeting, and continued it so earnestly as to forget their dinners and everything else."[102]

Despite Dr. Kilham's efforts to convince people otherwise, it appears that most Wenhamites were Federalist, their interests aligned with the shipping industry of Salem and other Essex County ports.

> Wenham did what it could to sustain the honor of the country in the field, both with men and money. Some enlisted on privateers, and others in the United States army, and fought valiantly in those hardly-contested battles. [In 1814] an alarm came to Wenham that the enemy had landed at Salem; and the company of militia were immediately prepared to march, when, after bidding adieu to loved ones, news arrived refuting the report.[103]

During the summer of 1814 Edmund Kimball (1786–1879, Figure 4.7) was a lieutenant in Maj. B. T. Reed's Battalion of Artillery, stationed at Marblehead.[104]

Reference to "the Close" also appears in Essex County Probate 7790 (Asa Dodge, 1806), Widow's Dower (1810).)

102 Allen (1860), 93. See also Cole (1943), 84-89.

103 Perley, "Wenham" (1888), 1239. Dr. Daniel Kilham 6th was a great-great-grandson of Daniel Kilham Jr. (1649–1734), whom we met in Chapter 1.

104 Pearson (1913), 6, 7.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The Typhus Epidemic of 1813

Rev. Rufus Anderson (1796–1880), minister of Wenham's Congregation Church, recorded this description[105] of the typhus epidemic of 1813:

> About the 2nd [of] June, a malignant fever commenced, singular and new in some of its symptoms: The patient is first afflicted perhaps several days with a headache. The fever comes on by degrees; is attended with great debility, often with frequent […]ing; and commonly with more or less derangement of the senses. In the advanced stages, with bleeding at the nose, a bad state of the bowels, and a distressing diarrhea. Sudden & great changes from promising to alarming symptoms. It seems to have no regular [course]. The worst symptoms have usually appeared after the fever has seemed to turn, and abate. It runs from two to five weeks. No two persons have seemed to be exactly alike in their symptoms. One died in about 3 weeks; another in about 5, and another in little more than 2. Supposed to be a malignant typhus fever.

Rev. Anderson identified 30 Wenhamites who became ill with the fever, six of whom died. None of those listed by him, however, were immediate members of the Thomas Kimball Jr. family or the Thomas Kimball 3rd family.

105 Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1792–1847*, MS, 188.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Edmund Kimball's Gift to the Wenham Church, 1820

In 1820 Capt. Edmund Kimball (Figure 4.7) gifted $500 to the Wenham Congregational Church. Having started his career as a housewright, he became a merchant by 1817 living in Marblehead. He was on his way up the economic ladder, and he had cash. At the same time that he was making a donation to the church, he was also in the process of buying seven-eighths of the corpus of his parents' farm (including the Thomas Kilham House), paying his siblings $1840.

The documentation of his donation speaks to his feeling "a strong attachment to his native [t]own" and his belief in the importance of promoting the Gospel. Technically speaking, it was a donation to the *town* for the purpose of supporting a Congregational or Presbyterian minister. (In Massachusetts, the state's support of religion didn't end until 1833.) A trust having been set up, two-thirds of its income were to be paid to augment the income of the minister; the other third was to be added to principal. After a forty-year period, at the end of which the trust was projected to be worth at least $2000, all trust income would be used in perpetuity to support the minister.[106]

106 Allen (1860), 96, 140, 202; and Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1810–1835* (Andover, MA: Town Printing, Inc., 1977), 45-47.

In 1817 Thomas 3rd mortgaged this half-interest in the corpus of the farm to his brother Edmund, the farm consisting of 100 acres.[107] Three years later Thomas 3rd and his sisters Lydia, Clarissa and Sally sold their interests to brother Edmund.[108] Thus, Edmund came to own all of the corpus of the farm except for brother Benjamin's portion. In 1823 Benjamin sold his interest in the corpus to Edmund. The same day Edmund—who consequently owned everything except Huldah's widow's third—sold five acres back to his brother Benjamin and 30 acres (Lot H in Figure 4.18) to his uncle Nathaniel Kimball.[109]

Thomas Kimball 3rd began his attempt to acquire his parents' farm in 1814 but didn't acquire the house lot (subject to his mother's life tenancy) until 1823.

Two weeks later Edmund sold three parcels, along with Edmund's interest in the corn barn and the family pew in the meeting house, to Thomas 3rd. One of the parcels was the four-acre Upper Field, the second was the two-acre Swamp Pasture, and the third parcel was a three-acre piece that included the house lot.[110] Thus, twelve and a half years after Thomas Kimball Jr.'s death Thomas 3rd owned the house lot, subject to Huldah's life tenancy; Thomas 3rd also owned some of the former farm outright; and each of the surviving eight children stood to inherit an equal share of Huldah's property.

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107 Essex County Deeds 214:131 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] to Edmund Kimball, mortgage, 1817). As for the mortgage transaction, the farm was described in two pieces: an 80-acre piece spanning between proto-Topsfield Road and proto-Maple Street, and the 20-acre Spring Pasture (Lot D in Figure 4.18).

108 Essex County Deeds 224:55 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] *et al.* to Edmund Kimball, 1820). The sale was made February 2, even though the mortgage (214:131) was not released until December 6 of that year.

109 Essex County Deeds 233:72 (Benjamin P. Kimball to Edmund Kimball, 1823); 233:73 (Edmund Kimball to Benjamin P. Kimball, 1823) and 233:73 (Edmund Kimball to Nathaniel Kimball, 1823). The three transactions occurred on May 17. The five-acre lot was to the northwest of the house and seems to have overlapped the four-acre Close that was later described in Essex County Probate 44452 (Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), Division of Estate (1847), first division (Lot B in Figure 4.51).

110 Essex County Deeds 233:86 (Edmund Kimball to Thomas Kimball [3rd], deed and mortgage, 1823). The deed is dated May 30 and the mortgage May 31. The three-acre lot abutted the five-acre lot that Edmund sold to Benjamin two weeks earlier.

In 1824 Thomas 3rd bought from brother Benjamin the five-acre lot that Benjamin had bought the year before. Thomas also bought brother John's interest in Huldah's property, even as Huldah continued to live on the farm.[111] At some point Huldah split the Long Field in two and conveyed the resulting lots to her daughters Lydia and Clarissa, neither of whom bothered to record a deed (Figure 4.31).[112] Thomas 3rd finally completed his acquisition of what was left of his parents' farm shortly after his mother died in 1835, when his other siblings sold their interest in Huldah's remaining property to him.[113]

111 Essex County Deeds 236:181 (Benjamin Porter Kimball to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1824) and 236:181 (John Kimball 2nd [*sic*] to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1824).

112 For subsequent history of the western portion of the Long Field, see Essex County Deeds 916:147 (Lydia Batchelder to Betsey B. Gage, 1874) and 1152:283 (Betsey B. Gage to Hiram L. Roberts, 1885). For the eastern portion, see Essex County Deeds 677:79 (Clarissa Porter to Isaac Porter [Jr.], 1850) and 929:84 (Isaac Porter [Jr.] to Hiram L. Roberts, 1875). The two lots were recombined in 1902; see Essex County Deeds 1674:262 (Hiram L. Roberts to Emma Weatherbee, 1902), second parcel. For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 2363:333 (Emma Weatherbee, notice 1917), first parcel, 2363:370 (Emma Weatherbee to Solomon [E.] Kimball, 1917), and 2366:459 (Emma Weatherbee, notice, 1917). See Essex County Land Court Decree 4880, Case 6305 (Emma Weatherbee, confirmation of title, 1917) and Land Court Decree 4890 (John J. and Emma Weatherbee to B. Hammond Tracy, 1917). See also Land Court Certificate Plan 6305A ("Plan of Land in Wenham," 1916), sheet 2.

113 Essex County Deeds 338:196 (Ebenezer Todd [Jr.] *et al.* to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1835).

	Ownership of the House Lot		Ownership Interest in Huldah's Widow's Third	
By 1815	Thomas 3rd Sally Lydia Clarissa Benjamin	50% 12.5% 12.5% 12.5% 12.5%	8 children, 12.5% each	
1820	Edmund Benjamin	87.5% 12.5%	8 children, 12.5% each	
May 17, 1823	Edmund	100%	8 children, 12.5% each	
May 30, 1823	Thomas 3rd	100%	8 children, 12.5% each	
1824	Thomas 3rd	100%	Thomas 3rd 6 children, 12.5% each	25%
1835	Thomas 3rd	100%	Thomas 3rd	100%

Figure 4.30. Ownership interests in the Thomas Kimball Jr. Farm. The corpus of the farm (*i.e.*, the portion excluding Huldah's widow's third) shrank as the farm became subdivided. This table tracks ownership of that part of the corpus of the farm that remained associated with the house and also tracks the children's interests in Huldah's widow's third.

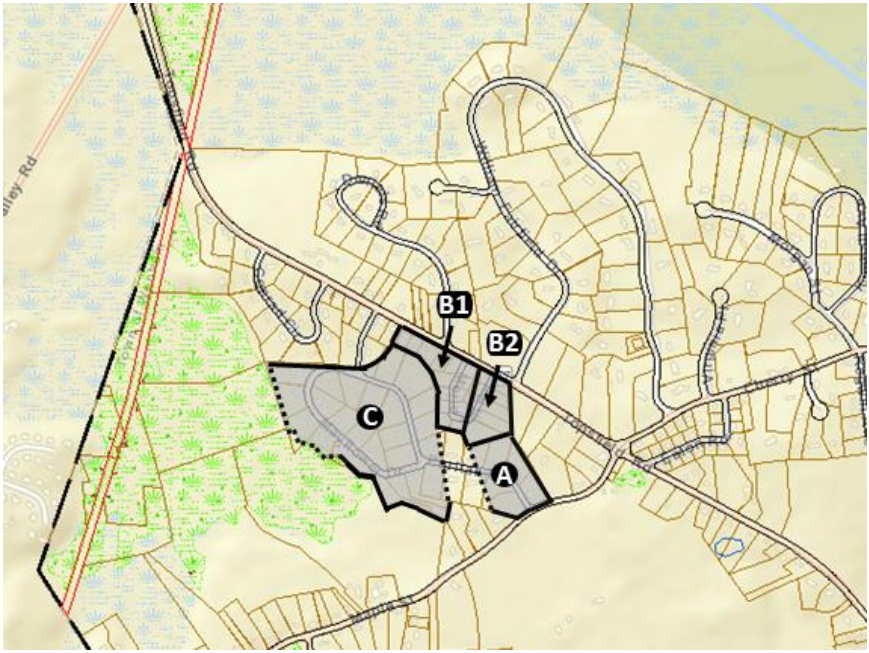


Figure 4.31. Subdivision of Huldah (Porter) Kimball's widow's third, by 1835.[114]

A. To Thomas Kimball 3rd
B1. To Lydia (Kimball) Batchelder
B2. To Clarissa (Kimball) Porter
C. To Thomas Kimball 3rd

114 Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. Lot B1 is described in Essex County Deeds 916:147 (Lydia Batchelder to Betsey B. Gage, 1874) and 1152:283 (Betsey B. Gage to Hiram L. Roberts, 1885). In addition, Edmund Batchelder [Jr.] (1794–1865) is mentioned as an abutter here in Essex County Probate 44452 (Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), Division of Estate (1847), fourth division. Lot B2 is described in Essex County Deeds 677:79 (Clarissa Porter to Isaac Porter [Jr.], 1850) and 929:84 (Isaac Porter [Jr.] to Hiram L. Roberts, 1875).

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Wenham's Population, 1800–1830

Wenham grew steadily during the first third of the nineteenth century. Both the number of families and the total population increased by 28% between 1800 and 1830, the fastest growth in families occurring during the 1820s and the fastest growth in people occurring between 1800 and 1810.

In the 1800 Federal census, Wenham had 67 dwelling houses, 99 households and a population of 476. The 1810 Federal census didn't capture the number of dwelling houses but did record 99 "families" (analogous to 1800's households) and a population of 544—a 14% increase over 1800's population. The 1820 Federal census recorded 106 families and a population of 572. The 1830 Federal census counted 127 families and a population of 611.[115]

115 United States Census Bureau, 1800 Federal Census, Wenham, 561-567; 1810 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 49-53; 1820 Federal Census, Wenham, 210-212; and 1830 Federal Census, Wenham, 511-515.

THOMAS KIMBALL 3RD, CO-OWNER OF THE HOUSE FROM 1810 TO 1823, OWNER OF THE HOUSE FROM 1823 TO 1845

Thomas Kimball 3rd, son of Thomas Jr. and Huldah (Porter) Kimball, was born on February 1, 1789 in Wenham, probably in the Fiske-Gott House. He died (of "consumption") on October 25, 1845 in Wenham, probably in the Thomas Kilham House.[116] He married Nancy Elwell in November or December 1814 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, the intention of their marriage recorded on November 7, 1814 at Wenham and on November 8 at Gloucester.[117] Nancy was the daughter of mariner Solomon and Esther (Woodbury) Elwell, and was born on August 17, 1791 in Gloucester.[118] She died on November 16, 1865 in Wenham, probably in the Thomas Kilham House.[119]

Continued on p. 75

116 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1700–1810,* MS, 58 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 266); Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1883), 298; Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1887), 11; Morrison and Sharples (1897), 226, 419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 55, 209; Essex County Deeds 4145:109 (1955), affirmation of death of Thomas Kimball 3rd in October 1846 [*sic*]; and "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 20:123.

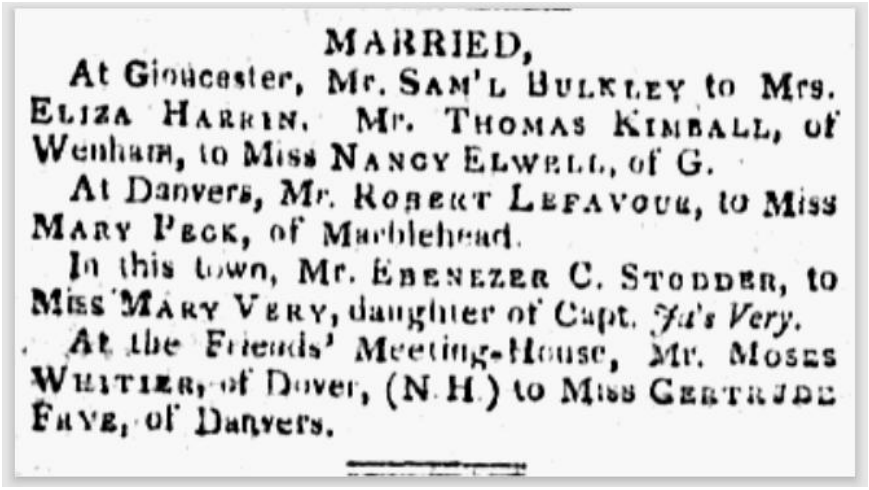
Gravestone of Thomas Kimball 3rd, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. August 16, 2014 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

Mr.
THOS. KIMBALL.
Died
Oct. 25, 1845.
Æt. 56.

117 For marriage intention, see Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 28 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 298); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 116, 138; Town of Gloucester, *Marriages and Intentions, Town of Gloucester 1797–1828*, MS, 161-162 (Ancestry.com, Gloucester Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 1474); and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Gloucester, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1923–1924), 2:201, 318. Their wedding was announced in the *Salem Gazette* [Salem, MA], December 16, 1814, 3; *The Yankee* [Boston], December 16, 1814, 3; and the *New-England Palladium* [Boston], December 20, 1814, 4.

118 Essex County Probate 8864 (Solomon Elwell, 1826), Will (1817) and Petition of Betsey Elwell (1826); Topsfield Historical Society, *Vital Records of Gloucester, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1917), 1:246; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Gloucester* (1923–1924), 2:202, 592. See also Essex County Deeds 158:135 (Lydia Woodberry [*sic*] *et al.* to Livermore Whittridge, 1783) for genealogical insight on Esther (Woodbury) Elwell.

119 Essex County Probate 44411 (Nancy Kimball, 1865), Petition for Probate of Will and Letters Testamentary.



MARRIED,

At Gloucester, Mr. SAM'L BULKLEY to Mrs. ELIZA HARRIN. Mr. THOMAS KIMBALL, of Wenham, to Miss NANCY ELWELL, of G.

At Danvers, Mr. ROBERT LEFAVOUR, to Miss MARY PECK, of Marblehead.

In this town, Mr. EBENEZER C. STODDER, to Miss MARY VERY, daughter of Capt. *Ja's Very.*

At the Friends' Meeting-House, Mr. MOSES WHITTIER, of Dover, (N. H.) to Miss GERTRUDE FAVE, of Danvers.

Figure 4.32. Newspaper announcement of Thomas Kimball 3rd and Nancy Elwell's marriage, 1814.[120]

120 *Salem Gazette* [Salem, MA], December 16, 1814, 3. The same text also ran in *The Yankee* [Boston], December 16, 1814, 3, and the *New-England Palladium* [Boston], December 20, 1814, 4: "At Gloucester … Mr. THOMAS KIMBALL, of Wenham, to Miss NANCY ELWELL of G."

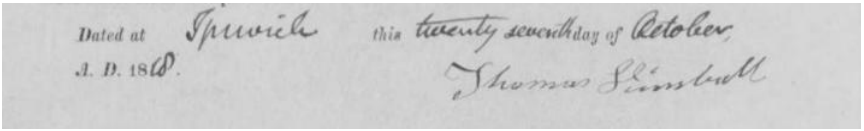


Figure 4.33. Signature of Thomas Kimball 3rd, 1818.[121]

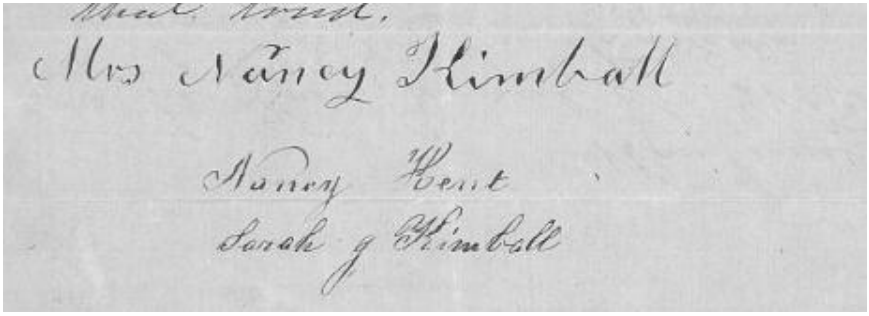


Figure 4.34. Signatures of Nancy (Elwell) Kimball and her daughters Nancy (Kimball) Kent (1817–1908) and Sarah J. Kimball (1821– 1852), 1846.[122]

121 Essex County Probate 16497 (Matthew Leach [Jr.], 1818), Petition.
122 Essex County Probate 44452 (Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), Petition.

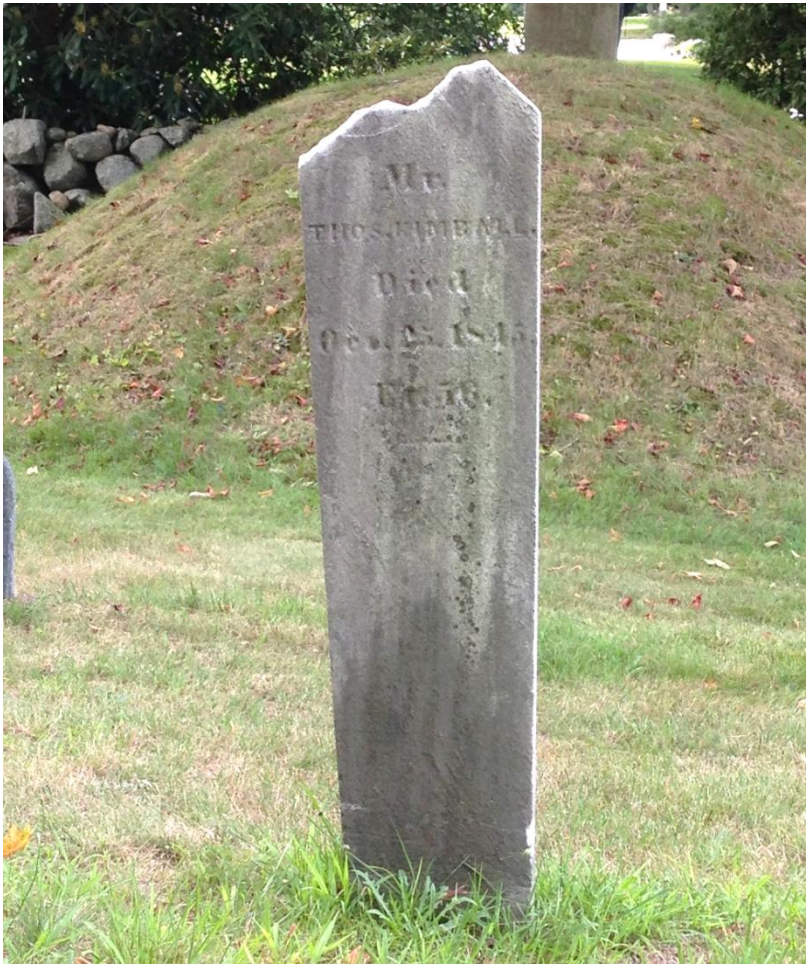


Figure 4.35. Gravestone of Thomas Kimball 3rd. It seems that no gravestone was erected for his wife Nancy (Elwell) Kimball, as there is no mention of one in 1883—just eighteen years after she died—when an inventory was made of the Main Street Cemetery.[123]

123 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. August 16, 2014 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 116 for transcription. See also Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1883), 298; and Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1887), 11.

Thomas 3rd and Nancy (Elwell) Kimball had eight children, probably all of whom were born in the Thomas Kilham House:

Children:

1. Nancy Kimball was born on April 11, 1817 in Wenham and died on February 6, 1908 in Haverhill, Massachusetts. She married Joseph Gerrish Kent on November 20, 1838 in Wenham. He was the son of Moses and Marcy (Toppan) Kent, was born on November 12, 1811 in Newbury, Massachusetts and died on January 25, 1897 in Wenham.[124]
2. Thomas Kimball 4th was born in 1818 and died at an early age.[125]
3. John Kimball was born on August 18, 1819 in Wenham and died on April 18 or 20, 1842 in Boston.[126]

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124 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 4 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 290); Essex County Deeds 536:296 (Nancy and Joseph Kent to Solomon E. Kimball, 1856) and 708:111 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Solomon E. Kimball, 1866); Morrison and Sharples (1897), 419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 54, 133, 137; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Newbury, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1911), 1:259, 2:271, 491; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 472:623, 1908:112; and Findagrave.com, memorials #61329915 and 613-29955.

Gravestones of Joseph G. and Nancy (Kimball) Kent, Main Street Cemetery. November 5, 2021 transcriptions by Robert O. Corcoran:

FATHER	MOTHER
JOSEPH G. KENT	NANCY KENT
BORN	BORN APR. 11, 1817
NOV. 12, 1811	DIED FEB. 6, 1908
DIED	
JAN. 25, 1897	

125 Morrison and Sharples (1897), 491.

126 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 6 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 291); Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1883), 298; Pool, "Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham" (1887), 11; Morrison and Sharples (1897), 419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 53, 207; and Findagrave.com, memorial #61939780.

Gravestone of John Kimball, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. November 13, 2021 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

In Memory of
JOHN KIMBALL
who died
April 18, 1842
Aged 22 Years
[Remainder of stone worn. Pool recorded:

Figure 4.36. Gravestones of Joseph G. and Nancy (Kimball) Kent.[127]

Let me die the death
of the righteous, and let
my last end be like his.]

127 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham, Massachusetts. November 5, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 124 for transcriptions.

Figure 4.37. Gravestone of John Kimball.[128]

128 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham, Massachusetts. November 13, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 126 for transcription.

4. Sarah J. Kimball was born on November 1, 1821 in Wenham and died on December 27, 1852 in Wenham (probably in the Thomas Kilham House).[129]
5. Edmund Kimball was born on December 22, 1823 in Wenham and died on September 15, 1919 in Jamestown, New York. He married Mary O. Wilder, their marriage license dated September 4, 1854 in Lorain County, Ohio. She was born about 1834 and died on February 5, 1907 at Fredonia, New York.[130]
6. Ebenezer Sarry Kimball was born on April 16, 1826 in Wenham and died on June 6, 1915 in Lansing, Michigan. He married (date and place not found, but after 1850) Susan Dierdorff, the daughter of Jonas and Dorothy (Wiedemer) Dierdorff. Susan was born in 1836 in Ohio and died on May 18, 1900 in Lansing, Michigan.[131]

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129 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 9 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 292); Morrison and Sharples (1897), 419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 55; Essex County Deeds 4145:108 (1955), Copy of Record of Death, and 4145:109 (1955), affirmation of death of Sarah J. Kimball; and "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 66:168.

Gravestone of Sarah J. Kimball, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. November 5, 2021 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

[…]SS.
SARAH J. KIMBALL
Died,
Dec. 27, 1852
aged 31 yrs
& 2 mos.

130 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 9 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 292); Essex County Deeds 531:286 (Edmund Kimball to Solomon E. Kimball, 1856) and 708:111 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Solomon E. Kimball, 1866); Morrison and Sharples (1897), 419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 52; "Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774–1993," online database, Ancestry.com, 2016, film #000447524; "New York, U.S., Death Index, 1852–1956," online database, Ancestry.com, 2017, certificates #6198 and 51026; and Findagrave.com, memorials #15745257 and 15745259. In 1856 Ebenezer S. Kimball was living in Wellington, Lorain County, Ohio (see Essex County Deeds 531:287 (Ebenezer S. Kimball to Solomon E. Kimball, 1856)); is this a clue that could help us pinpoint where in Lorain County his brother Edmund had been married?

131 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 9 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 292); United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 605; Essex County Deeds 531:287 (Ebenezer S. Kimball to Solomon E. Kimball, 1856) and 708:111 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Solomon E. Kimball, 1866); Morrison and Sharples (1897), 419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 52;

7. Betsey E. Kimball was born on April 17, 1829 in Wenham and died on September 4, 1864 in Wenham (probably in the Thomas Kilham House).[132]
8. Solomon Elwell Kimball was born on February 13, 1830 in Wenham and died on September 4, 1924 in North Grosvenor Dale (Thompson), Connecticut.[133] A subsequent owner of the Thomas Kilham House, Solomon is treated in more detail later in this chapter.

"Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867–1952," online database, Ancestry.com, 2015, files #566 and 766; and Findagrave.com, memorials #23647621 and 23647668.

132 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1791–1844,* MS, 9 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 292); Morrison and Sharples (1897), 419; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 51; Essex County Deeds 4145:107 (1955), Copy of Record of Death, and 4145:109 (1955), affirmation of death of Betsey E. Kimball; and "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 174:282.

Gravestone of Betsey E. Kimball, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. November 5, 2021 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

MISS
BETSY [*sic*] E. KIMBALL
Died,
Sept. 4. 1864.
Aged 35 yrs

133 Morrison and Sharples (1897), 419; and death certificate, Connecticut Bureau of Vital Statistics, a copy of which is in Appendix J.

Figure 4.38. Left to right: Gravestones of Sarah J. and Betsey E. Kimball.[134]

134 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham, Massachusetts. November 5, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnotes 129 and 132 for transcriptions.

Figure 4.39. Edmund Kimball (1823–1919) and, at far right, his wife Mary O. (Wilder) Kimball (*ca.*1834–1907). Daughter Alice Rose (Kimball) Waterhouse (1855–1927) is standing; granddaughter June Rose (Waterhouse) Peters (1889–1982) and an unidentified family member are seated.[135]

135 Unidentified photographer; photographed at Lily Dale (Pomfret), New York. Courtesy of Janet Harney, "Harney-Turnbull Family Tree," Ancestry.com.

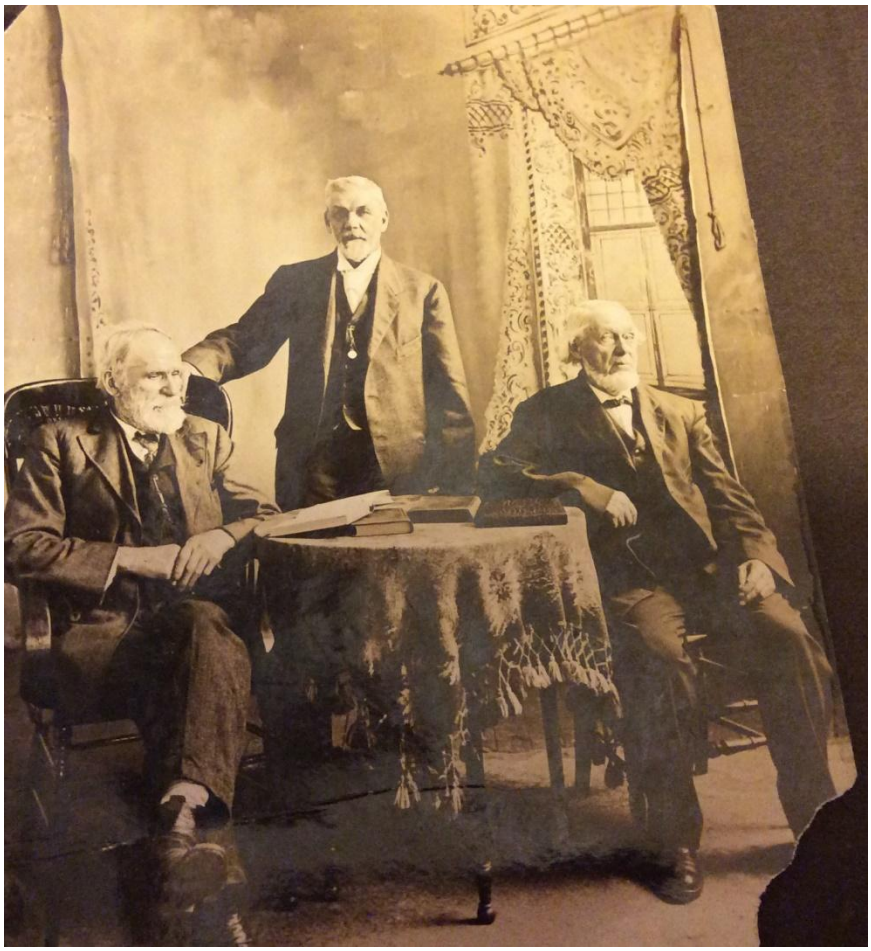

Figure 4.40. Left to right: Edmund Kimball (1823–1919), Solomon E. Kimball (1830–1924) and Ebenezer S. Kimball (1826–1915).[136]

136 Unidentified photographer. Courtesy of Janet Harney, "Harney-Turnbull Family Tree," Ancestry.com. The photograph has been torn along its right edge. The site where this photograph was taken wasn't recorded. It is tempting to think that the Kimballs were having a reunion at their boyhood home. But there is a decorative panel above the window, and the resulting ceiling height rules out the Thomas Kilham House. Was this instead photographed in Solomon's Newburyport home, or were they having a reunion at Edmund's or Ebenezer's house?

Thomas 3rd's Public Life

Thomas 3rd was a bricklayer by trade.[137] Like his father, he held various roles in town government: Surveyor of highways in 1814; hayward in 1815; surveyor of fences in 1816; and member of the school committee for the West District in 1817 and 1818.[138] He was a selectman in 1820 and 1821, and a member of the Fish Committee both of those years.[139] Following his service as selectman, he was hayward in 1822 and 1823; member of the school committee in 1824, 1827 and 1829; surveyor of highways in 1826 and 1830; and an overseer of the poor in 1830, 1831 and 1832.[140] He was a member of the committee to review a proposal to widen and straighten proto-Topsfield Road in 1833; and hog reeve in 1834.[141] His ledger, in which he recorded barter-based exchanges of goods and services with his neighbors, is in the collection of the Phillips Library. After his death his wife used the ledger to record when boarders lived in the Thomas Kilham House.[142]

Thomas 3rd made a small number of real estate transactions. He sold two acres of meadowland (probably in the Great Meadow) in 1817; bought three acres of woodland in the Hamilton part of Wenham Swamp in 1832; and bought two acres of woodland in the Wenham part of Wenham Swamp in 1833. In 1834 he bought four and a half acres of pasture along the south side of proto-Maple Street, between the driveway to current-day 9 Maple Street (Figure 1.11, Chapter 1, Volume 1) and the house lot at current-day 7 Maple Street.[143] Although he made these transactions on his own behalf, he also

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137 Essex County Deeds 233:86 (Edmund Kimball to Thomas Kimball [3rd], mortgage, 1823), 236:181 (John Kimball 2nd [*sic*] to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1824), and 282:27 (Amos Shelden, administrator, to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1834); Essex County Probate 44452 (Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), multiple references to "bricklayer;" and "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 20:123 ("mason").

138 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1810–1835* (1977), 18, 22, 27, 32, 36.

139 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1810–1835* (1977), 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51; and Perley, "Wenham" (1888), 1248. Fish Committees in Wenham and nearby towns regulated the volume of fishing for alewives in the tributaries of the Ipswich River—in Wenham's case, the aptly-named Alewife Brook and the Miles River; see Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1810–1835* (1977), 122.

140 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1810–1835* (1977), 56, 59, 64, 66, 74, 77, 81, 92, 93, 94, 99, 113.

141 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1810–1835* (1977), 126, 128, 129.

142 Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Rowley, Massachusetts, MSS #2002.

143 Essex County Deeds 212:213 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] to Stephen Cook, 1817), 272:15 (Tyler Porter to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1832), and 272:16 (Joel Wilkins, administrator, to

transacted as a third-party trustee: In 1834 he bought a farm in trust for Ezra (1799–1870) and Nancy (*ca.*1790– ?) Shattuck.[144]

Boarder in the Thomas Kimball 3rd Household

EXPERIENCE WEBBER (*CA.*1731–1820)

We saw in the last chapter (in the case of Esther Butman and the Josiah Fairfield household) that it was an established practice for the town to pay residents to provide room, board and medical care for those other residents who couldn't otherwise secure their own housing—the host being entitled to the boarder's labor. Similar to Esther Butman's placement in the Josiah Fairfield household, Experience Webber was placed by the town's overseers of the poor in the Kimball household in 1815 and 1818.

People at the lower rungs of the economic ladder rarely leave much of a paper trail, and such is the case with Experience Webber. We don't know what her maiden name was or where she was born but do know that she was born about the year 1731 and that she died on January 12, 1820 in Wenham. Her husband was Benjamin Webber (the record of their marriage not found), and they had a daughter Sarah who was born in Wenham on March 1, 1761. Experience was admitted to the Wenham Congregational Church on June 27, 1762. In July of that year her husband Benjamin died on the island of Martinique (called "Martinico" at the time), his death recorded in the Wenham church records.[145]

Widow Experience was in the town's care intermittently between 1809 and 1818, being placed in the Oliver Dodge household in 1809, the Benjamin Fairfield household in 1810, the William Porter household in 1814, the Thomas Kimball 3rd household in 1815, the Samuel Obear household in

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Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1833). For the lot between 7 and 9 Maple Street, see Essex County Deeds 282:27 (Amos Shelden, administrator, to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1834), 4½ acres; 343:91 (Abigail Obear to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1840), nine poles; 343:193 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] to John E. Tiney, 1844), 4¾ acres; and 345:27 (John E. Tiney to Thomas Kimball [3rd], mortgage, 1844).

144 Essex County Deeds 275:112 (Benjamin Merrill to Thomas Kimball [3rd], in trust for Ezra and Nancy Shattuck, 1834). The farm was at the intersection of proto-Cherry Street and proto-Flint Street; see the "E. Shattuck" house in Figure 4.53.

145 Wenham First Congregational Church, *MS Church Records, 1643–1805*, MS, 57, 66; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 81, 224.

1816, the Sally Dodge household in 1817, and the Thomas Kimball 3rd household again in 1818.[146] There's no record of her being placed in another household after 1818; consequently, it's possible that she died in the Thomas Kilham House.

Benjamin Webber hasn't been identified. He might have been the son of Richard and Elizabeth (Webber) Webber who was baptized in Ipswich, Massachusetts on September 14, 1735. Or perhaps he was the son of Edward Jr. and Sarah (Newman) Webber who was baptized in Ipswich on October 1, 1738.[147] Given his death on far-away Martinique, the absence of a probate file for him in Essex County, and the absence of financial resources for his widow, one suspects that he may have been a sailor.

Continued on p. 94

146 Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1776–1810* (1959), 216; and Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1810–1835* (1977), 2, 19, 23, 28, 32, 37.

147 Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Ipswich,* 1 (1910):386.

Figure 4.41. Thomas Kimball 3rd's ledger, cover. This is the earliest object found that was used in the Thomas Kilham House.[148]

148 Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861). Robert O. Corcoran photograph. Courtesy of the Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Rowley, Massachusetts.

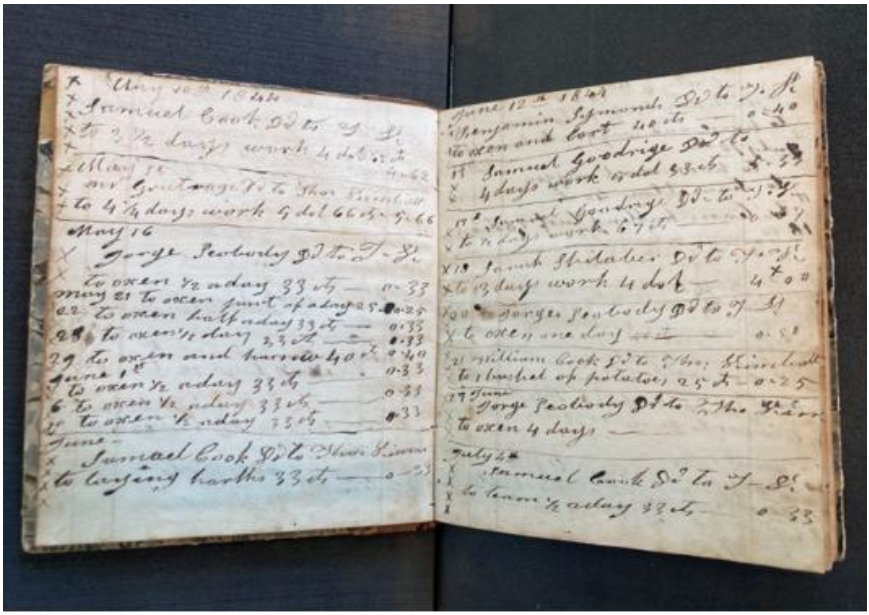

Figure 4.42. Thomas Kimball 3rd's ledger, interior. In an economy that was largely barter-based, Kimball (like others in Wenham) recorded the transfer of goods and services with his neighbors.[149]

149 *Ibid.*

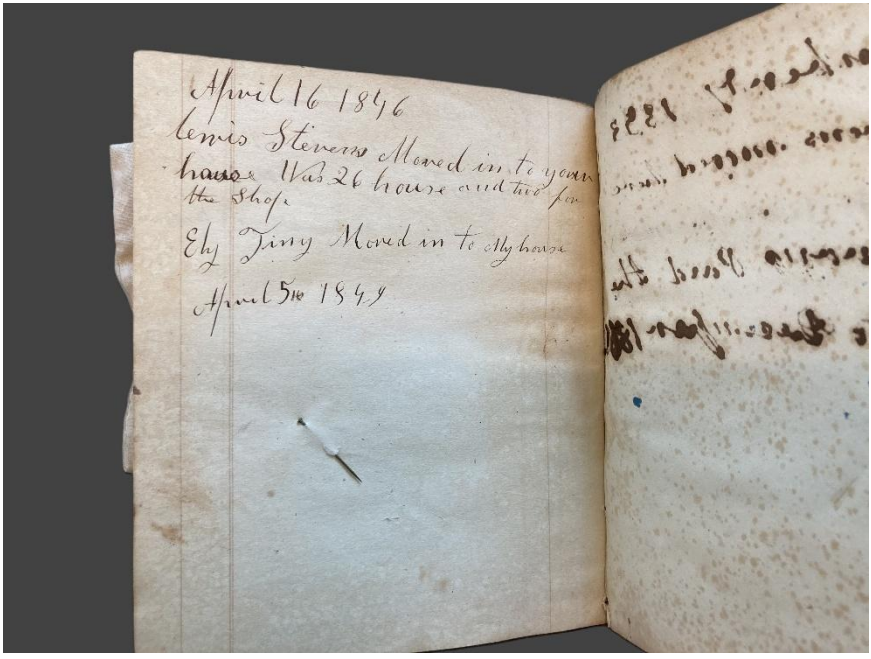
April 16 1846
Lewis Stevens Moved in to your
house Was 26 house and two for
the Shop
Ely Tiny Moved in to My house
April 5th 1849

Figure 4.43. Thomas Kimball 3rd's ledger, interior. Nancy (Elwell) Kimball used the ledger to record when boarders moved into the Thomas Kilham House.[150]

150 *Ibid.* Transcription:
April 16 1846
lewis [*sic*] Stevens Moved in to your
house Was 26 house and two for
the Shop
Ely Tiny [*sic*] Moved in to My house
April 5th 1849
Stevens was a cordwainer. The reference to "the shop" is probably the same shop mentioned in the probate file of Thomas Kimball Jr., and suggests Stevens may have used it for making

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Mapping Wenham, 1825 & 1831

John Hales' 1825 map of Wenham (Figure 4.44) shows the Thomas Kilham House on proto-Maple Street, across the way from the Porter-Crowninshield House—and shows that proto-Topsfield Road didn't yet extend south of the current-day intersection with Maple and Cherry Streets. But the map has problems depicting West Wenham. It omits proto-Burley Street. It places the north end of Wenham Pond at the approximate location of Cedar Pond, leaving no dry land for current-day Cedar Street. And it shows proto-Maple Street crossing the Wenham town line into *Beverly*, whereas Dodge's map of 1795 (Figures 3.47-3.48, Chapter 3, Volume 2) shows the street crossing into Danvers.

Philander Anderson's 1831 map (Figure 4.45) shows a similar road system as the Hales 1825 map but also includes Porter's Road (to the Porter-Crowninshield House), proto-Burley Street and proto-Cedar Street. It adds the locations of swampland, Muddy Pond and Cedar Pond. Anderson's map, similar to Dodge's 1795 map, shows proto-Maple Street crossing the Wenham town line into Danvers.

shoes. Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Inventory (1811) and Widow's Dower (1813), transcriptions of which are in Appendix D.

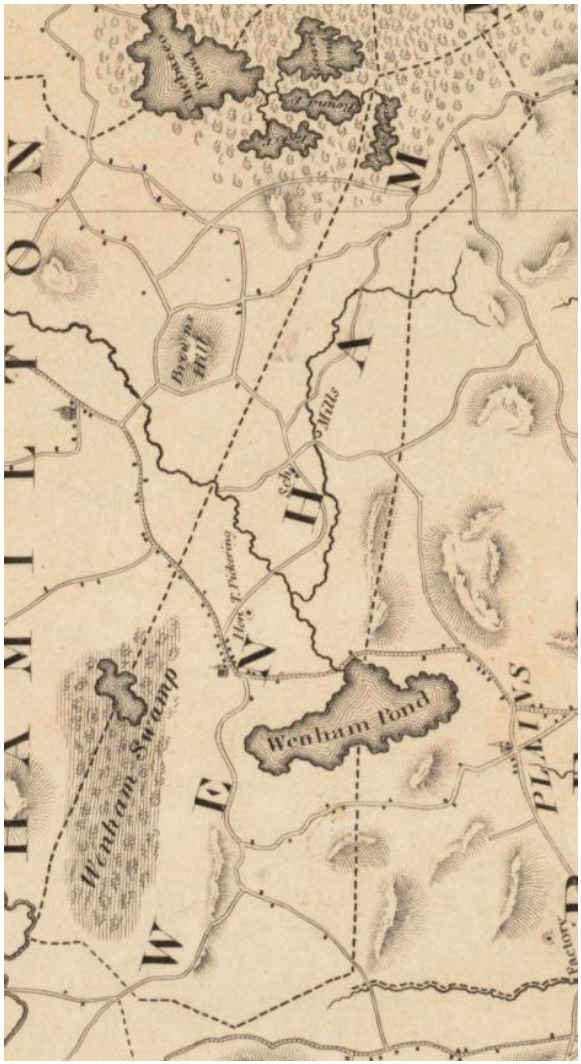

Figure 4.44. John Hales' map of Wenham, 1825.[151]

151 John G. Hales, *The County of Essex, From Actual Survey* (Boston: J. V. N. Throop, 1825).

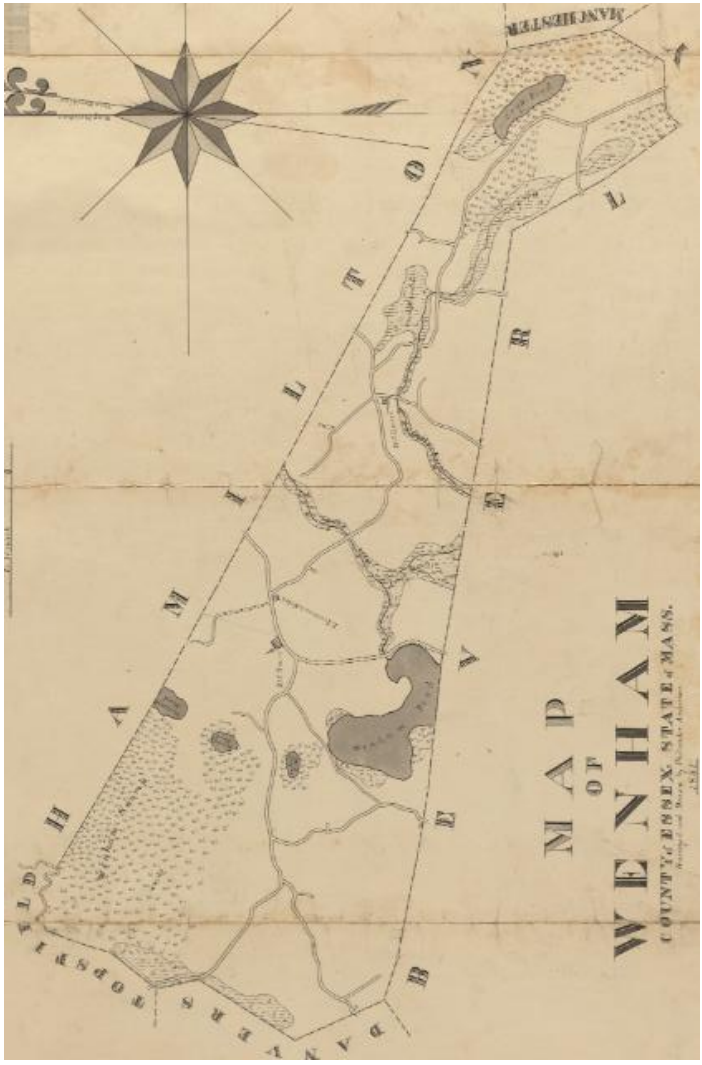

Figure 4.45. Philander Anderson's map of Wenham, 1831.[152]

152 Philander Anderson, "Map of Wenham, County of Essex, State of Mass.," MS, 1831, Massachusetts State Archives.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Peat Harvesting in Leach's Swamp and Wenham Swamp, First Half of the Nineteenth Century

"The country [along the road from Boston to Salem] seems to be in a manner entirely stripped of wood."

George Washington, 1789

By the start of the nineteenth century much of Essex County had become deforested, and the cost of shipping wood from well-supplied Maine had become prohibitive for many. Peat became the alternative fuel of choice. Both Leach's Swamp and Wenham Swamp were important sources, the peat in Wenham Swamp being as much as fifteen feet deep in some places.

It's an open question when Wenhamites started using peat as fuel. By 1806, though, deeds for parcels in Leach's Swamp were describing the area less frequently as swamp or woodland, and increasingly as peat meadow.[153]

153 Essex County Deeds 178:256 (John Conant to Ebenezer Peabody, 1806), 178:257 (John Conant to Enos Estey, 1806), 183:64 (John Conant to William Shillaber, 1807), 240:297 (John Conant to Dominick Moore, 1807), 237:294 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to William Shillaber, 1825), 252:301 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to Ebenezer Wilkins, 1825), 240:297 (Dominick Moore to David Pingree, 1826), 250:201 (Elias Putnam to Nathaniel Boardman, 1828), 271:20 (Israel Rea to Israel Rea Jr., mortgage, 1833), fourth parcel, 381:154 (William Rea to Israel Rea, 1847), fourth parcel, and 3022:234 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to Samuel Brown, 1825).

Benson J. Lossing, *Diary of George Washington from 1789 to 1791* (New York: Charles B. Richardson & Co., 1860), 39; John Henry Sears, *The Physical Geography, Geology, Mineralogy and Paleontology of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Salem, MA: The Essex Institute, 1905), 34; Jack Hauck, "Treasures of Wenham History," HWLibrary.org/treasures_of_wenham_history/ (2013), 83-84; and Gordon Harris, "The Peat Meadows," Historicipswich.org/2021/01/-24/the-peat-meadows/ (Ipswich, MA: Gordon Harris, 2021).

A town history published in 1943 tells us

> Much peat was cut on the Wenham side of Valley Road [Leach's Swamp], where turf houses were a common sight, even to the nineteenth century. … Peat was cut during the summer or early fall and stacked to dry; later the blocks were stored in the turf houses until hauled home. The lighter peat was full of leaves and sticks and was cut near the surface, and was particularly adapted to burning spring and fall; the blacker peat was heavier, but gave out less heat, tho' it kept the fire all night. The implements used in cutting peat are now rarely found, but a group may be seen in the barn on the Historical grounds [*i.e.*, Burnham Hall, Wenham Museum]. The meadow back of the Tea House [Monument Street] has some very good peat, which was used for many years as a source of supply; the turf houses and drying sheds were back of the church.[154]

154 Cole (1943), 54-55.

Ground Floor Expansion

The Kimball family made two additions to the ground floor of the house during the nineteen century, one along the north wall and the other along the east wall (Figure 4.46). It's an open question whether the two additions were made at the same time, and it's an open question whether one or both were built by Thomas Kimball 3rd *vs.* his widow Nancy or son Solomon.

The addition along the north wall (Figure 4.47) provided the back entrance to the building. It was a one-story lean-to, had no cellar, and was roughly 18 feet long by roughly 7 feet deep. It was badly damaged in the fire of 1959 and torn down in the wake of that fire. This addition resembled a similar one along the north side of the Claflin-Richards House (as restored, Figure 4.48).

The addition along the east wall (Figure 4.50) may have been built at the same time as the porch that was along the same wall (Figure 4.61). It is one story high, has no cellar, and is 14 feet long by 7' 9" deep. It provides a side entrance to the building.

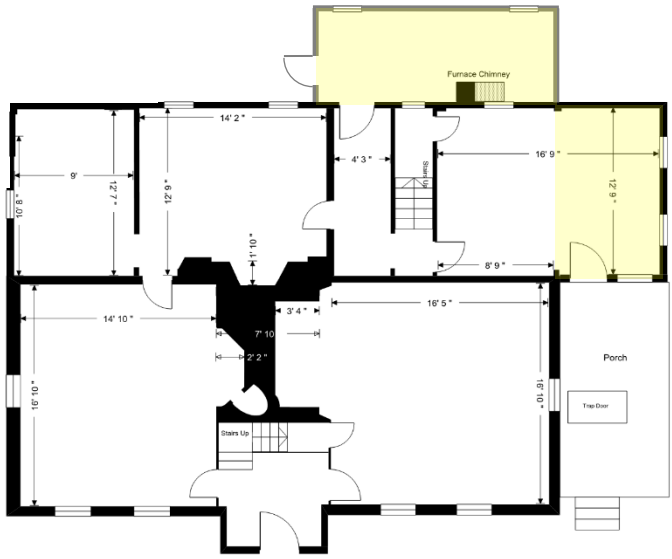

Figure 4.46. Additions along the north- and east-facing walls. Dimensions of the addition along the north-facing wall are estimated.[155]

155 June 2013 measured drawing by Robert O. Corcoran. See Appendix H for a larger image of this floor plan. It's unknown whether the addition along the north-facing wall had a window in its respective east-facing wall. The furnace chimney was removed after this floor plan was drawn.

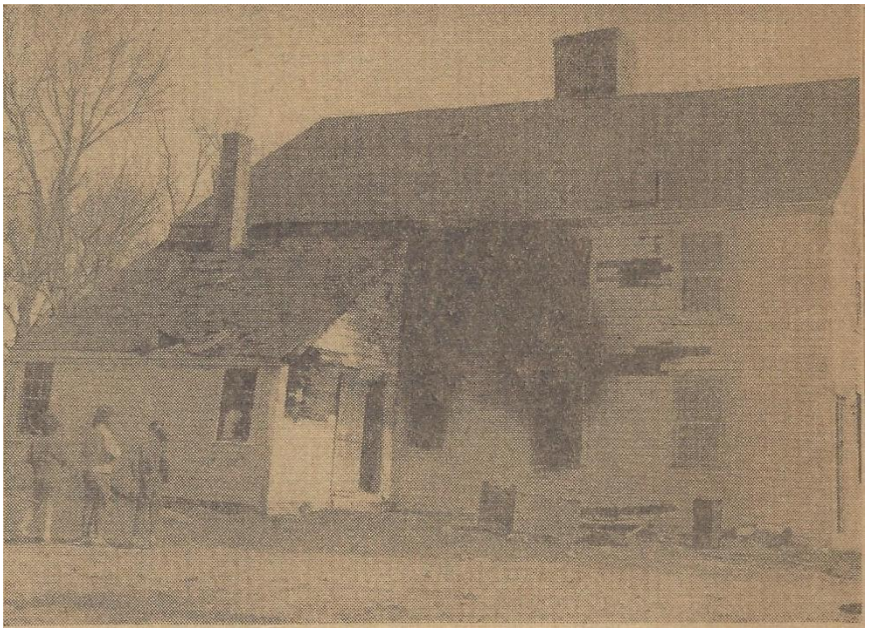

Figure 4.47. The addition along the north-facing wall of the house, 1959. This picture was taken immediately after the fire of May 3, 1959. The main block of the house displays an unadorned central chimney, a stack pipe venting the plumbing for the master bathroom, a stack pipe (difficult to see) for the guest bathroom, a 6-over-6 window on the second floor and what seems to be a 12-over-12 window on the ground floor. The addition itself displays an unadorned chimney, board-and-batten door (which is open in this view) and 6-over-6 windows. The addition hides the current-day back door.[156]

156 "200-Year-old Wenham House is Swept by $20,000 Blaze," *Salem Evening News* [Salem, MA], May 4, 1959, 1; see Appendix P. The addition's chimney doesn't seem to be a furnace chimney, because there's no opening at this point in the foundation to allow for a connection

Figure 4.48. North-facing wall of the Claflin-Richards House, 132 Main Street, Wenham. The lean-to entrance addition is a restoration.[157]

to a furnace. But this is problematic, as how otherwise did occupants heat the house, especially as late as 1959? A furnace chimney was, however, subsequently built about three feet to the west; see Appendix S.

157 November 18, 2022 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. On the lawn are four train-shaped cutouts that promote one of the museum's exhibits.

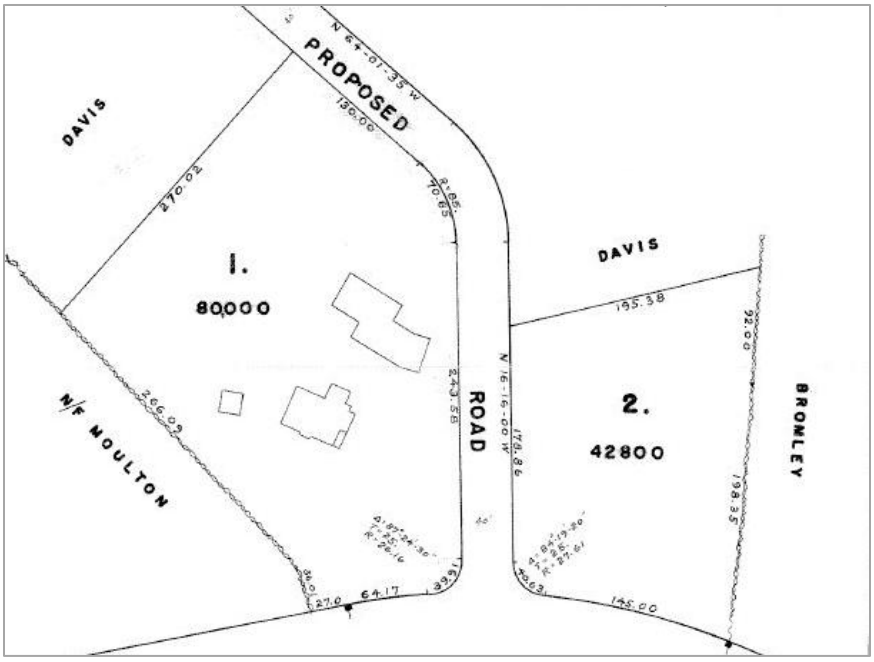

Figure 4.49. Additions along the north- and east-facing walls of the house, 1955.[158]

158 Essex County Deeds Plan 4199:298 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Owned by Eldridge T. Davis," 1955). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 1958:629 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Evelyn Pescosolido," 1958), which appears in Figure 6.9.

Compare the outline of the house shown here with that shown in Figure 5.6, a map drawn in 1910. In the 1910 map the Thomas Kilham House is shown with an addition along part of its north wall and extending *past* the façade of the east wall. In this view and in Figure 4.47, it is clear that the addition did not extend past the east wall. Was the 1910 rendering inaccurate, or was there another addition (a shed?) that was once connected to the house that had been removed by 1955?

Figure 4.50. East-facing wall of the Thomas Kilham House.[159]

159 November 8, 2022 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

Widow Nancy's Tenure and Disposition of Thomas 3rd's Estate

When Thomas 3rd died, Nancy (Elwell) Kimball was assigned a widow's third comprised of three-quarters of the house; a barn and outbuildings; five acres of tillage abutting proto-Maple Street (adjacent to the house, "corn house," "cow yard" and barn); and a quarter-acre orchard in the front yard.[160] The rest of his real estate was distributed among their surviving children (Figure 4.51).

Nancy survived her husband by twenty years, living in the Thomas Kilham House during that time. The 1850 Federal census shows that her children Sarah, Edmund, Ebenezer, Betsey and Solomon were living with her. According to the census, Edmund was a carpenter, Ebenezer was a mason, and Solomon was a farmer.[161]

But by 1855 Sarah had died, Edmund and Ebenezer had moved out—and Nancy had taken in boarders. Nancy shared one part of the house with "Augusta Kimball" (apparently mistake made by the census taker, who probably meant to record Betsey E. Kimball) and Solomon (who by then was a shoemaker). The other part of the house was occupied by the Evans family—Alpheus D. Evans (1827–1863), Hannah A. Evans (1827–1887), Samuel L. Evans (1852–after 1870), Josephine A. Evans (1855–1936)—and Richard H. Newcomb (*ca.*1842– ?).[162] We'll learn more about the Kimball family's boarders below.

Continued on p. 104

160 Essex County Probate 44452 (Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), Widow's Dower (1847). The orchard abutted the stone wall between current-day 26 and 30 Maple Street. Interestingly, the document refers to a brook to the north/northeast of the house—perhaps some sort of seasonal runoff stream or a spring that has since dried up?

Betsey (Kimball) Todd (1783–1855), daughter of Thomas Kimball Jr., had conveyed her interest in the family farm to her brother Thomas Kimball 3rd, in two transactions, in 1815 and 1835. See Essex County Deeds 220:68 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1815) and 338:196 (Ebenezer Todd [Jr.] *et al.* to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1835). Nonetheless, the 1847 description of Nancy (Elwell) Kimball's widow's third indicates that Betsey owned land approximately in the location of the Close. When Betsey died eight years later, the family evidently deemed it wise that her surviving son and heir *sell* his interest in the farm to widow Nancy (Elwell) Kimball. See Essex County Probate 44452 (Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), Widow's Dower (1847); and Essex County Deeds 531:286 (William C. Todd to Nancy Kimball 1855).

161 United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Wenham, 605. Sarah Kimball's birthplace is given as Ohio. Although the census does not actually identify her as Nancy's granddaughter, Sarah's birth *ca.*1855 in Ohio suggests that she was the daughter of Edmund and Mary O. (Wilder) Kimball.

162 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1855 State Census, Wenham, Essex County, 22.

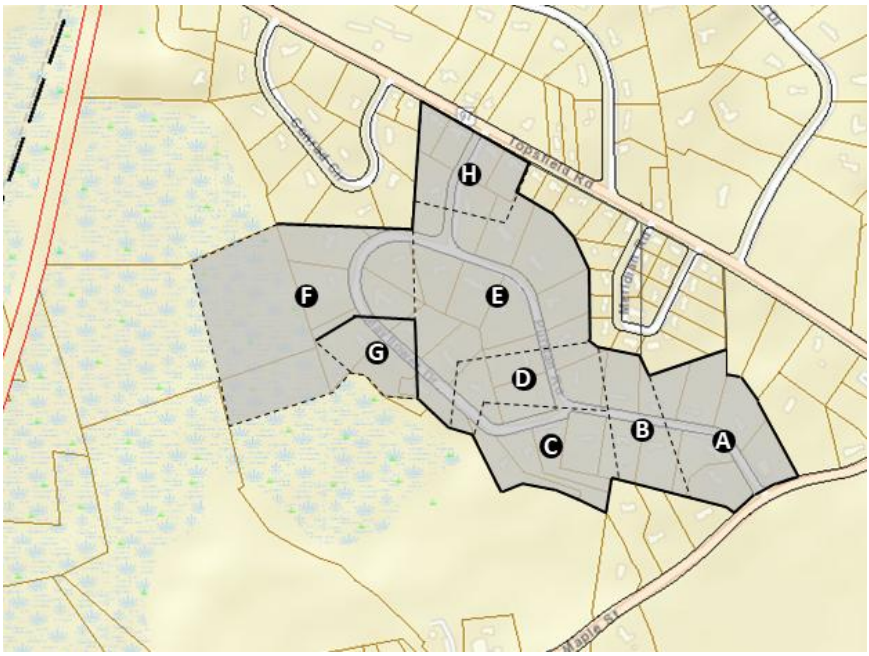

Figure 4.51. Subdivision of the Thomas Kimball 3rd Farm, 1847.[163]

A. House Lot, referred to as the "Widow's Dower"
B. "The Close" ("mowing land" and a garden), to Solomon E. Kimball
C. The Hobbs Lot, to Nancy (Kimball) Kent
D. Part of the Great Pasture, to Sarah J. Kimball
E. Part of the Great Pasture, to Edmund Kimball
F. The Swamp Pasture, to Ebenezer S. Kimball
G. The Swamp Orchard, to Betsey E. Kimball
H. The Upper Field, to Betsey E. Kimball

163 Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. Essex County Probate 44452 (Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1846), Division of Estate (1847). The eastern boundary of the house lot is based on *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), 34. The boundary between Lots C and D is grounded on a surviving stretch of stone wall at 11 Puritan Road; see Figures 4.52 and 5.12. Lot G is grounded on stone walls shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 106:30 ("Subdivision Plan in Wenham, Puritan Park," 1966). For Lot H, see Essex County Deeds Plan 1955:149 ("Plan of Land Belonging to Elwell F. Kimball, Wenham, Mass.," 1955). Not shown: Kimball's woodlot in Hamilton, lots in Wenham

Figure 4.52. Remains of the stone wall that once separated the Hobbs Lot from the Great Pasture, 2021.[164]

Swamp, and lots of turf meadow in Leach's Swamp. Note that there was more than one "Hobbs Lot;" see footnote 53.

164 Eleven Puritan Road, Wenham, looking west. November 20, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

Figure 4.53. West Wenham, 1856. The Thomas Kilham House is identified as "T[homas] Kimball Est[ate]"—the use of the word "estate" not hinting at any grandeur of the place but rather referring to its ownership by Kimball's heirs. This map shows the Danvers & Georgetown Railroad (later the Newburyport and Wakefield Branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad), which was constructed in 1853. Also of note: This map shows the Beverly-Danvers town line before it was shifted to the east in 1857.[165]

165 Walling (1856). The houses along the north side of proto-Maple Street were those for Thomas Kimball 3rd's heirs, Stephen Cook, Samuel S. Cook, Harvey Pierce, Edward F. White and Edward W. Peabody. Along the south side of the street, the School House is followed by houses for John E. Tiney, Henry S. Kent, Joseph G. Kent, and George W. Peabody.

In 1857 the northwest corner of the town of Beverly was moved from the site shown here to its current-day location, corresponding to a point to the southeast of the "W. Moulton" house—with the result that a triangular sliver of Beverly was annexed to Danvers. See Secretary of the Commonwealth, *Acts and Resolves Passed by the General Court of Massachusetts, In the Year 1857* (Boston: William White, 1857), 457-458. See also George B. Parrott, *Map of Parts of Middlesex & Essex Counties Showing the Rail Road Routes Between Salem, Lowell, Boston & Methuen*

In 1860 Nancy was living with daughter Betsey, son Solomon, and granddaughter Sarah J. Kimball (b.*ca.*1855). Nancy reported her occupation as "tailoress" and Solomon reported his as farmer. The Evans part of the household had grown: Alpheus had lost his wife in 1858, but was living in the Thomas Kilham House with son Samuel and daughter Josephine, as well as his parents Theodore (1790–1887) and Mary Q. Evans (1800–1885) and son John W. Evans (1857–1921). Richard H. Newcomb was gone and had been replaced by Richard R. Smith (*ca.*1839–1875).[166] By 1865, however, the Evans family and Smith had moved out; Nancy Kimball was living in the Thomas Kilham House with her son Solomon and granddaughter Sarah J. Kimball.[167] Nancy died later that year.

Boarders in the Kimball Household

Census records Thomas Kimball 3rd's ledger show that the Kimballs took in a number of boarders intermittently between the 1840s and the 1860s.

JOHN EATON TINEY (1802–1887)

The son of Daniel and Phoebe (Eaton) Tiney, John E. Tiney was born on June 20, 1802 in Shapleigh, Maine and died on October 27, 1887 in Wenham. According to the Kimballs' ledger, he moved in with the Kimballs in May of 1842. The ledger doesn't record when he moved out of the household, but in 1844 he purchased the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) House from Thomas Kimball 3rd, a property that Kimball had bought in 1834. The house was formerly on the site of 7 Maple Street and had a lot of just over four acres. Tiney married Elizabeth H. (Edwards) Roundy on November 1, 1858 in Wenham.[168]

(Boston: W. W. Bouvé, 1847), Lucius Beebe Memorial Library Historic Maps, Boston Public Library.

166 United States Census Bureau, 1860 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 34. See also Town of Wenham, *Valuation of the Town of Wenham, and State, County and Town Tax, For the Year 1860* (Salem, MA: William Ives and George W. Pease, 1860), 9, in which Solomon E. Kimball (not Nancy) was taxed on the house and farm, and Nancy was taxed on her personal property of $800 "money at interest."

167 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1865 State Census, Wenham, Essex County, 9.

168 Essex County Deeds 282:27 (Amos Shelden, administrator, to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1834), 343:193 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] to John E. Tiney, 1844), and 345:27 (John E. Tiney to Thomas Kimball [3rd], mortgage, 1844); Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), unnumbered page; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915" (2013), 1887:329; and

Figure 4.54. Gravestone of John E. Tiney.[169]

"Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 1858:frame 220; and Findagrave.com, memorial #53571141.

169 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. Photograph by John Glassford. Findagrave.com, memorial #53571141. Transcription:

JOHN EATON TINEY
Born

ELBRIDGE GERRY PEABODY (1810–1893) & PAULINE (FISKE) PEABODY (1810–1902)

Elbridge and Pauline Peabody moved into the house in July of 1842. Further research is needed to determine when they moved out of the Kimball household, although they were living in Salem by 1850. Elbridge was the son of Warren and Lydia (Dale) Peabody, who lived in the Joseph Hacker House that was formerly near 115-117 Maple Street. Elbridge was born on September 9, 1810 in Boxford and died on July 11, 1893 in Beverly. He married Pauline Fiske on May 16, 1841 in Wenham. She was the daughter of Samuel Jr. and Sally (Patch) Fiske, who lived in the Samuel Fiske Jr. House that was formerly on the site of 38-40 Maple Street. Pauline was born on April 21, 1810 in Wenham and died on April 10, 1902 in Beverly.[170]

June 20, 1802.
DIED
Oct. 27, 1887.
[verse]

170 Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), unnumbered page, the ledger recording Elbridge's name but not also Pauline's; United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts, 329-330; Frederick Clifton Pierce, *Fiske and Fisk Family* (1896), 200; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 36, 118, 152; Selim Hobart Peabody, *Peabody (Paybody, Pabody, Pabodie) Genealogy* (Boston: Charles H. Pope, 1909), 168-169, 319; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915" (2013), 1893:frame 545, 1902:443; and Findagrave.com, memorials #63431498 and 63431554. For the Joseph Hacker House see Corcoran (2025), 18-19, 28. For the Samuel Fiske Jr. House see page 163 of this text.

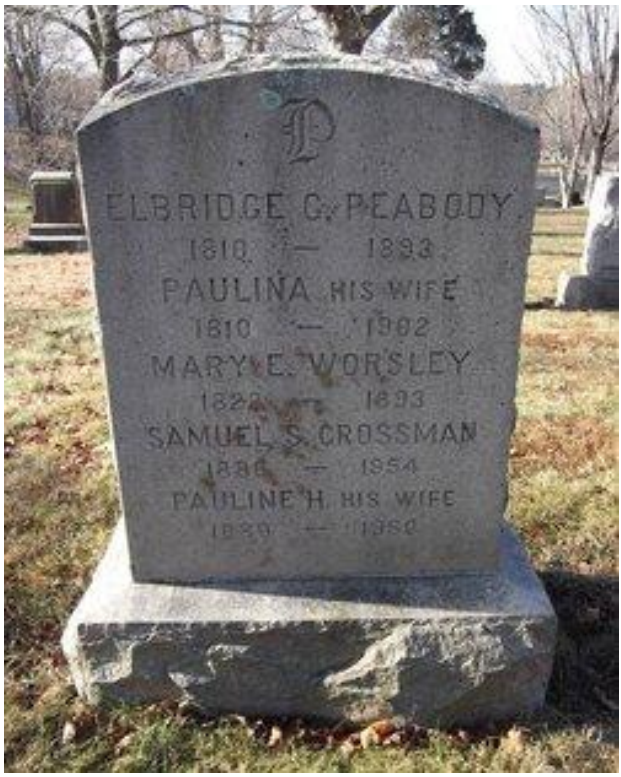

Figure 4.55. Joint gravestone of Elbridge G. Perry, Paulina Peabody, Mary E. Worsley, Samuel S. Crossman and Pauline H. Crossman.[171]

171 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. Photograph by John Glassford. Findagrave.com, memorial #63431498. Transcription:

P
ELBRIDGE G. PEABODY
1810–1893
PAULINA HIS WIFE
1810–1902
MARY E. WORSLEY
1822–1893
SAMUEL S. CROSSMAN
1886–1954
PAULINE H. HIS WIFE
1889–1960

LEWIS H. STEVENS (*CA.*1821–1881) & MARY P. (WELCH) STEVENS (1824–1903)

Lewis Stevens, a cordwainer, was born about 1821 in Somersworth, New Hampshire, the son of John and Lydia (Hussey) Stevens, and died in 1881 in Somersworth. He married Mary Parker Welch on July 7, 1844 in Wenham. She was the daughter of Jonathan C. and Zilpah (Smith) Welch, was born on September 15, 1824 in Newburyport and died on October 9, 1903 in Rochester, New Hampshire. They moved into the Thomas Kilham House in April 1846. Further research is needed to determine when they moved out, although they were living in Haverhill by 1850.[172]

MORRIS WEBBER (*CA.*1813–1894)

Morris Webber moved into the house in April 1847 and moved out in April 1849. He was the son of Joseph and Lydia (Towne) Webber, was born about 1813 in Acton, Maine, and died on March 19, 1894 in Wenham. He married Nancy Porter White on September 17, 1837 in Wenham. She was the daughter of Amos C. and Lydia (Porter) White, who lived in the Bartholomew Dodge House formerly at 128 Topsfield Road. Nancy was born on April 13, 1819 or 1820 in Wenham and was buried on March 29, 1843 in Wenham. Morris and Nancy had two daughters: Lydia Ellen Webber (who was born about 1838 in Wenham) and Aurelia M. Webber (who was born in 1840 in Wenham). Neither daughter is mentioned in the Kimballs' ledger, which raises the possibility that they may have been living with relatives. Indeed, by 1850 Lydia was living with Caleb and Mercy (Dodge) Kimball on Topsfield Road and Aurelia was living with her White grandparents also on Topsfield Road.[173]

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172 Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), unnumbered page, the ledger recording Lewis's name but not also Mary's; United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Haverhill, Essex County, Massachusetts, 96; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 167, 174; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Newburyport, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1911), 1:406, 2:440, 450, 500; "New Hampshire, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1643–1982," online database, Ancestry.com, 2015, Strafford, Probate Records, Vol 91-94, frames 476-477; and "New Hampshire, U.S., Death Records, 1650–1969," online database, Ancestry.com, 2021, 1901–1937, Harvey, S–Haselton, frame 1854 (Mary P. Horne).

173 Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), unnumbered page; United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Wenham, 615; Porter (1878), 328; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 174, 176, 224; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915" (2013), 1858:frame 195 (Ellen L. Buston), 1889:409 (Aurelia M. (Webber) Cummings), 1894:frame

ELI W. TINEY (1816–1894) & EMILY J. (WELLS) TINEY (*CA*.1821–1900)

Eli and Emily Tiney moved into the house in April 1849 about a week before Morris Webber left and were still living in the house at the time of the 1850 census. Further research is needed to determine when they moved out, although by 1855 they were living with his older brother, former Kimball boarder John E. Tiney (1802–1887) in the Samuel Fiske Jr. House. Eli was born in Shapleigh, Maine in March 1816, the son of Daniel and Phoebe (Eaton) Tiney. Eli died on February 25, 1894 in Danvers. He married Emily J. Wells on January 24, 1844 in Wenham. She was the daughter of Nahum and Olive (Hasty) Wells, was born about 1821 in Shapleigh, and died on July 26, 1900 in Danvers. Eli and Emily Tiney had twin daughters Caroline C. and Phoebe O. Tiney who were born in Danvers in 1847 and died in Beverly in 1848.[174]

THE EVANS FAMILY

Alpheus Danforth Evans, a son of Theodore Lyman and Mary Q. (Knowles) Evans, was born at Tuftonboro, New Hampshire on September 16, 1827. His parents moved the family to West Wenham sometime in the 1840s, probably living on proto-Burley Street. He married Hannah Adams Whittier on April 29, 1851 in Wenham. A daughter of John and Betsey (Bartlett?) Whittier, Hannah was born on December 27, 1827 in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Their son Samuel Lyman Evans was born on July 25, 1852 in Danvers, and their daughter Josephine Alma Evans was born on May 12, 1855 in Wenham.[175] The Evanses moved in with the Kimballs in September 1853, and therefore we can assume that daughter Josephine was born in the Thomas Kilham House. Alpheus didn't hold any offices in town government

571; and Findagrave.com, memorial #63487241. For the Bartholomew Dodge House see Cororan (2025), 62, 64.

174 Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), unnumbered page, the ledger recording Eli's name but not also Emily's; United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Wenham, 605; Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1855 State Census, Wenham, Essex County, 21; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 170, 174; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915" (2013), 1894:392, 1900:470; and Findagrave.com, memorials #51265019, 51265105, 121945257 and 182294879.

175 United States Census Bureau, 1840 Federal Census, Moultonborough, Strafford County, New Hampshire, 240; United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Wenham, 615; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Danvers* (1909–1910), 1:116; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Newburyport* (1911), 1:412; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 54:229, 63:92, 90:255; and Findagrave.com, memorials #51940432 and 51940433.

but was included in the town's list of men who were eligible for military duty in 1851 and 1857–1860.[176]

A shoemaker in 1852 and 1855 and a carpenter by 1857, Alpheus wanted a farm of his own. In 1857, a few months shy of his thirtieth birthday, he bought six and a half acres on the south side of proto-Maple Street, a stone's throw from where he and his young family were living.[177] But he didn't yet have the means to build a house and he continued to board himself and his family with Nancy Kimball for several years.

Alpheus Evans wanted a farm of his own, and he boarded his family with Nancy Kimball while he tried to get his farm established. But the Civil War intervened, and he died in camp before realizing his goal.

A number of changes occurred in the Evans' household by 1860, when they appear in the Federal census as Nancy's boarders. Alpheus and Hannah Evans' son John Wesley Evans was born on April 19, 1857 in Wenham, probably in the Thomas Kilham House. Hannah died on December 11, 1858 at Wenham, probably also in the Thomas Kilham House. Alpheus remarried, to Hannah Lucinda Spiller, on September 4, 1860 in Wenham. (Hannah Spiller was the daughter of William V. and Anna ("Nancy") O. (Pulsifer) Spiller and was born on October 3, 1835 in Rowley, Massachusetts.) In addition, Alpheus's parents Theodore (1790–1887) and Mary Q. Evans (1800–1885) had moved in.[178] Although Alpheus

176 Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), unnumbered page, the ledger recording "Elphis" Evans' name but not also Hannah's; Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 5, 1846–1873*, MS, Town Clerk's Office, Wenham, 51, 115, 125, 142, 154. Alpheus does not appear in the lists for 1852, 1861 or 1862; no such lists appear in this volume for the years 1853–1856.

177 Essex County Deeds 554:108 (George W. Kimball to Alpheus D. Evans, 1857); see also Essex County Deeds 565:265 (Alpheus D. Evans to Aaron Eveleth, mortgage, 1858). The lot was at the southwest corner of the intersection of proto-Maple Street and Company Lane, opposite current-day 36 Maple Street. Kimball and Evans were brothers-in-law: Kimball had married Alpheus's sister Mary in 1849. See Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 117, 136.

178 Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham, Mass.: Births, 1851–1900 Inclusive*, MS, 14 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 647); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Rowley* (1928), 198, 384, 399; and "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 120:183, 135:258.

Figure 4.56. The 13th New Hampshire Regiment's encampment at Camp Chase, Arlington Heights, Virginia. Alpheus Evans, a corporal in Company F, encamped here with the rest of the regiment during October 1862 when this image was made.[179]

Theodore Lyman Evans was born on June 13, 1790 in Lyman, Maine, and Mary (Knowles) Evans was born on March 16, 1801 in Tuftonboro, New Hampshire. See "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 1910:326; "New Hampshire, U.S., Birth Records, 1631–1920," online database, Ancestry.com, 2021, frame 1113; and Findagrave.com, memorials #51940432 and 51940433. No record found for their wedding.

179 Louis A. Rosenthal, "Camp Chase, 13th Regt. New Hampshire Vols." (Philadelphia: 1862). New Hampshire Historical Society, 2018.008.

identified himself as a shoemaker in the census, he augmented his income by working for the town's highway department. Meanwhile, across the street, he had a barn, a horse and a cow on his fledgling farm.[180]

Midway through the Civil War, Alpheus volunteered for the Union Army. He enlisted August 14, 1862 and was mustered-in on September 19 as a corporal in Company F of the 13th New Hampshire Infantry Regiment (Figure 4.56)—giving his residence as Strafford County, New Hampshire (where he was born) and not Essex County, Massachusetts.[181] The 13th New Hampshire was at the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 11-16, 1862, and was part of Gen. Burnside's "Mud March" offensive of January 20-24, 1863.[182] He died, though, of "consumption" on March 11, 1863 while encamped at Newport News, Virginia.[183]

In 1860, according to the Federal census, Wenham had a population of 1,105. One in six residents (175) was a shoemaker.

In 1864 Hannah Evans sold the West Wenham land that Alpheus had bought in 1857. The Evans family moved out of the Thomas Kilham House

180 Town of Wenham, *Valuation* (1860), 7; and Town of Wenham, *Report of the Selectmen of the Town of Wenham, February 22, 1861* (Salem, MA: Salem Observer, 1861), 5. His father also did work for the highway department in 1859 and 1860; see Town of Wenham, *Report of the Selectmen* (1860):5 and (1861):5.

181 "New Hampshire, U.S., Civil War Service and Pension Records, 1861–1866," online database, Ancestry.com, 2020, 007499129:504, 007499130:99, 007499138:110, 111, and 00749-9146:183.

182 Augustus D. Ayling, *Revised Register of the Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire in the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1866* (Concord, NH: Ira C. Evans, 1895), 650-655, 667. See also S. Millett Thompson, *Thirteenth Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1865: A Diary Covering Three Years and a Day* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1888).

Despite Alpheus making the decision to enlist from New Hampshire, it doesn't appear that he had actually moved away from Wenham: When his estate was probated in 1864, he was identified as having been a Wenham resident. See Essex County Probate 38623 (Alpheus D. Evans, 1864).

183 Ayling (1895), 667; "U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861–1865," online database, Ancestry.com, 2009; and "U.S., Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861–1865," online database, Ancestry.com, 2012, New Hampshire: A-Z, 53.

by 1865 (if not by 1861[184]) and indeed don't appear anywhere in Wenham's 1865 census. Hannah was back in town by 1867 when she remarried. She died in Ipswich in 1887. Alpheus's parents Theodore and Mary moved to Gilmanton Iron Works, New Hampshire by 1870, and were hosting their grandsons Samuel L. Evans and John W. Evans.[185] Theodore died on February 2, 1887 in Gilmanton, New Hampshire; Mary (Knowles) Evans died on January 9, 1885 in Gilmanton; Josephine A. (Evans) Paige died on June 3, 1936 in Alton, New Hampshire; and John W. Evans died on September 8, 1921 in Alton. Samuel L. Evans' paper trail goes cold after 1870; perhaps he was the shoemaker Samuel who was living in Dover, New Hampshire in 1880.[186]

RICHARD H. NEWCOMB (*CA.*1842– ?)

Unfortunately, the only mention found for Newcomb is the 1855 census entry for the Kimball household. Aged 13 at the time, he was born in Massachusetts; no occupation recorded. We can hypothesize that he was a hired hand—employed either by Alpheus Evans and/or perhaps by Nancy Kimball.

184 Although Alpheus was included in Wenham's list of men who were eligible for military duty in 1860, he was not included in those lists for 1861 and 1862. See Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 5, 1846–1873*, MS, 154, 173-174, 186-187.

Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), unnumbered page, records that "Elphea [*sic*] Evans Paid the Rent up to Dec Jan 18[58?]."

185 Essex County Deeds 677:157 (Hannah L. Evans, administrator, to Samuel S. Cook, 1864); Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1865 State Census, Wenham, 9; United States Census Bureau, 1870 Federal Census, Gilmanton, Belknap County, New Hampshire, 41-42; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 199:294 (marriage of Hannah and Henry Noyes on November 11, 1867 in Wenham) and 382:229 (Hannah's death on February 2, 1887 in Ipswich).

186 United States Census Bureau, 1880 Federal Census, Dover, Strafford County, New Hampshire, 18; "New Hampshire, U.S., Death and Disinterment Records, 1754–1947," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, frames 1451, 4303, 4407; "New Hampshire, U.S., Death Records, 1650–1969" (2021), 1901–1937, Page-Poire:frame 1338; and Findagrave.com, memorials #135705525 and 135705599.

RICHARD R. SMITH (*CA.*1839–1875)

Born in Ireland about the year 1839,[187] he might have been the Richard Smith who emigrated to Boston in 1853.[188] By 1855 he was living in the Samuel Fiske Jr. House formerly at 38-40 Maple Street, a cordwainer (shoemaker) and probably a hired hand to houseowner Samuel S. Cook (1817–1902). In 1860 he was a shoemaker living in the Nancy Kimball household, probably also working as a hired hand to Kimball and/or Alpheus Evans.[189]

Smith enlisted for military service on July 5, 1861 and was mustered on the same day as a private in Company I of the 14th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (reorganized the next year as the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery Regiment). The 1st Regiment was deployed to various forts that defended Washington, D.C. He was discharged on March 25, 1863 at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, having lost a leg above the knee and experiencing chronic diarrhea.[190]

Further research is needed to determine his whereabouts for the following ten years. In 1873 he was admitted to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Togus (Chelsea), Maine. He died there, unmarried, on July 16, 1875.[191]

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187 United States Census Bureau, 1860 Federal Census, Wenham, 34; and gravestone of Richard Smith, Findagrave.com, memorial #2869511 and footnote 192.

188 Born on June 10, 1837 in County Meath, Ireland, he arrived in Boston on November 15, 1853 and became a U.S. citizen (while living in Marblehead, Massachusetts) on November 2, 1872. See "Massachusetts, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798–1950," 69:67, online database, Ancestry.com, 2011, frames 159-160, 1873-1874. This proposed identification is based on his residence in Essex County, combined with the absence of other candidates.

189 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1855 State Census, Wenham, 22; and United States Census Bureau, 1860 Federal Census, Wenham, 34.

190 Adjutant General's Office, *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War* (Norwood, MA: The Norwood Press, 1931–1932), 5:630; "U.S., National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1939," online database, Ancestry.com, 2007, frame 608; "U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861–1865" (2009); "U.S., Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863–1865," Massachusetts, 6th, 4:185 (1864), online database, Ancestry.com, 2010, frame 191; and National Park Service, "Battle Unit Details, Union Massachusetts, 1st Regiment, Massachusetts Heavy Artillery," NPS.gov/civilwar (2014).

191 "U.S., National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1939" (2007), frame 608; and "Maine, U.S., Veterans Cemetery Records, 1676–1918," online database, Ancestry.com, 2020, frame 3445.

Figure 4.57. Gravestone of Richard R. Smith.[192]

192 Togus National Cemetery, Togus (Chelsea), Maine. Photograph by Peter M. Smith; used with permission. Findagrave.com, memorial #2869511. Transcription:
RICHARD SMITH
Col. I. Mass. H'y. Art.
DIED
July 16, 1875,
Æt. 36.

CHARLES PERKINS (? - ?)

A Charles Perkins moved into the house in March 1861. He left by the time of the 1865 census. Further research is needed to identify him.[193]

SOLOMON E. KIMBALL, CO-OWNER OF THE HOUSE FROM 1845 TO 1866, OWNER OF THE HOUSE FROM 1866 TO 1924

Solomon Elwell Kimball, son of Thomas Jr. and Nancy (Elwell) Kimball, was named for his maternal grandfather. He was born on February 13, 1830 in Wenham, probably in the Thomas Kilham House. He died on September 4, 1924 in North Grosvenor Dale (Thompson), Connecticut, where he had been living with his son's family, having suffered a fall down some stairs and fracturing his skull.[194] He married Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Garrison Fairfield on March 17, 1867 in Wenham. Lizzie Fairfield was the daughter of Moses and Mary ("Polly") (Russell) Fairfield, was born on September 5, 1840 in Middleton, Massachusetts and died on October 20, 1916 in Newburyport, Massachusetts.[195] They had one child, Elwell Fairfield Kimball, who was born on February 5, 1873 in Wenham, probably in the Thomas Kilham House.[196] (Elwell is treated in more detail in the next chapter.)

193 Thomas Kimball [3rd], Ledger, MS (1841–1861), unnumbered page.

194 Morrison and Sharples (1897), 419; death certificate, Connecticut Bureau of Vital Statistics, a copy of which is in Appendix J; and Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Wenham, and the Reports of the School Committee and Trustees of the Public Library, For the Year Ending December 31, 1924* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1925), 30.

195 Town of Middleton, *Births, Marriages, Deaths*, MS (Ancestry.com, Middleton Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 214); Topsfield Historical Society, *Vital Records of Middleton, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1904), 20, 80, 107; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1917), 39 (purchase of lot 73 in the Main Street Cemetery), 44 (burial); Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1919), 37 (payment for lot 73 in Main Street Cemetery); "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 199:294; and "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1916–1920," online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society (2018), 63:255.

196 "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 250:328.

Figure 4.58. Solomon E. Kimball, 1850s.[197]

197 Unidentified photographer; June 6, 1908 copy by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921). Wenham Museum, B. H. Conant Collection, x2016.502.

Solomon's Public Life

Kimball debuts in the public record in 1851, when he was included in the town's list of men who were eligible for military duty, and he reappeared on that list each year through 1864.[198] In 1855 he was a student at Topsfield Academy, a coeducational institution with 153 students from throughout Essex County, Boston, and points as far away as Delaware and Illinois.[199] His attendance as a student *at the age of 25* seems to have been in the context of training to be a teacher, since he was teaching grammar in Ipswich in 1858.[200] His career as a teacher was short-lived; there's no evidence that he taught school later than 1858. Indeed, he referred to himself as a farmer in census records between 1850 and 1880, with the exception of 1855 when he referred to himself as a cordwainer (or shoemaker).[201] But he maintained an interest in learning after receiving his formal education: He was a founding member of the Wenham Library Association in 1858.[202] In addition to farming, he supplemented his income by working for the town's highway department (1860–1862, 1864, 1868, 1870, 1877–1882, 1884–1886, 1888) and by selling cordwood to the town (1862).[203]

198 Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 5, 1846–1873*, MS, 51, 63, 115, 125, 142, 154, 174, 186, 204, 217. Solomon appears in the lists for 1851, 1852 and 1857–1864; no such lists appear in this volume for the years 1853–1856.

199 Topsfield Academy, *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Topsfield Academy, For the Academical Year 1855* (Boston: J. S. Potter & Co., 1855). Kimball does not appear in the 1856 catalogue; no copy of the 1854 catalogue was found during the research of this book.

200 James Robinson and Company, *The American Educational Year-Book, February 1858* (Boston, 1858), 88. Kimball doesn't appear in the 1857 edition of the *Year-Book*; no copy of an 1859 edition was found during the research of this book.

201 United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Wenham, 605; Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1855 State Census, Wenham, 22; United States Census Bureau, 1860 Federal Census, Wenham, 34; Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1865 State Census, Wenham, 9; United States Census Bureau, 1870 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 2-3; and United States Census Bureau, 1880 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 9. Solomon also referred to himself as a farmer in C. A. and J. F. Wood, *Essex-County History and Directory* (Boston: 1870), 666.

202 Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 6, 1873–1887*, MS, Town Clerk's Office, Wenham, 358; Town of Wenham, *Tenth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library, February 1, 1895* (no publisher: 1895), 2; and Cole (1943), 109.

203 Town of Wenham, *Report of the Selectmen* (1861):5, (1862):5, (1863):3, 4, (1865):6, (1869):6; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Town of Wenham, For the Year Ending Feb. 23, 1871* (Salem, MA: Salem Gazette and Mercury, 1871), 6, (1878):9, (1879):8, 10, 13, (1880): 12; and Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1881):8, 12, (1882):8, 11, (1883):7, 11, (1885):11, (1886):12, (1887):11, (1889):9.

Although he was selected for jury duty at the 1860 and 1861 annual town meetings,[204] it is noteworthy that (unlike many other Wenham men over the prior two centuries) Solomon didn't hold any offices in town government, entry-level or otherwise, during his twenties. But the Civil War changed that, as Wenham's contribution to the Army reduced the number of town-government-qualified men who had stayed home. In 1862 he was suddenly elected a selectman *and* an assessor *and* an overseer of the poor—"suddenly" because he hadn't already acquired experience in roles such as surveyor of highways or hayward. Solomon registered for the draft in 1863 but was not called to duty.[205] He continued as selectman through 1869 and then served again in that role from 1878 through 1883. He was also selected (again) for jury duty in 1862–1864, 1873, 1876–1879, 1886 and 1888; fence viewer in 1863 and 1867; measurer of wood and bark in 1863 and 1865; both an assessor and an overseer of the poor in 1864, 1867 and 1878–1883; member of the school committee in 1871; fence viewer in 1878–1883; member of the committee responsible for erecting the Soldiers' Monument in 1878–1880; and an election officer in 1890 and 1891.[206] In 1888 he served as administrator of the

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In 1862, brothers Richard Burnham (1822–1885) and Joshua Burnham Jr. (*ca.*1823–1876) were receiving support from the town's overseers of the poor; the cordwood provided by Kimball was used for their heating.

204 Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 5, 1846–1873*, MS, 152, 168.

205 Town of Wenham, *Report of the Selectmen* (1865), 9; and "U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863–1865" (2010), Massachusetts Fifth District, 2:8.

206 Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 4, 1796–1856*, MS, 457, 460-462, 464; Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 5, 1846–1873*, MS, 180, 185, 188-190, 195, 198-200, 203, 205-206, 209-210, 214-216, 219, 225-226, 241, 248-249, 253, 256, 259-260, 264, 270, 274, 279, 327, 352; Town of Wenham, *Report of the Selectmen* (1863):6, (1864):7, (1865):7, 8, 11, (1867):1, 10, 12, (1868): 9, 10, 12, 13, (1869):9, 10, 11; Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 6, 1873–1887*, MS, 49-50, 73, 109, 120, 122, 124-126, 131, 141, 145, 158, 165-166, 168, 179, 181, 183, 185, 197, 200-201, 203, 207, 216, 219, 233, 235, 238, 247, 252, 254, 269, 270, 278, 281, 286, 289, 291, 301-303, 307-309, 319, 343-344, 395; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Selectmen* (1879):16, 17, (1880):14, 15, 20, 21; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1881):17, 18, 22, 25, (1882):16, 17, 21, (1883):16, 20, 24, (1884):15, 16, 20, 23, (1885):16, (1891):18, (1892):15; Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 7, 1887–1898*, MS, Town Clerk's Office, Wenham, 33, 198; and Perley, "Wenham" (1888), 1249.

Mrs. Sally (Butman) Goodale (1797–1880), like the Burnham brothers (footnote 203), received support from the town's overseers of the poor. Solomon was reimbursed for expenses related to her support in 1878 and 1879, although there's no indication that Sally boarded with the Kimball family. See Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Selectmen* (1879):11 and (1880): 10.

estate of Emily Ober (1803–1887), who lived at current-day 140 Cherry Street.[207]

Lizzie's Public Life

Lizzie moved to Wenham in 1864 to teach school in the West Wenham Schoolhouse, apparently on the recommendation of West Wenham teachers and fellow Middleton residents Rebecca A. Berry (1829–1893) and Catherine Berry (1839–1906). She started teaching in West Wenham in the winter term of 1864–1865, left for a few years, and was back teaching there for the summer term of 1868 and winter term of 1868–1869. She was a member of the town's school committee in 1870 and 1871 (serving contemporaneously with her husband Solomon in 1871) and taught in Wenham's Grammar School (located in the Town Hall) during 1871–1872. She returned to teaching in West Wenham during 1876–1880.[208]

Lizzie Fairfield came to Wenham to teach in the West Wenham Schoolhouse, just up the road from where bachelor and former grammar teacher Solomon Kimball was living.

She was regarded as a solid teacher. Her performance reviews (as was the case with the other teachers in town) were included in the school committee's annual reports; they're a reminder that teachers in one-room schoolhouses taught all subjects to all age groups. Copies of her reviews appear in Appendix

207 Essex County Probate 65615 (Emily Ober, 1887), Administrator's Bond and Letter; and Essex County Deeds 1227:205 (Solomon E. Kimball, administrator, to Emily M. Currier, 1888).

208 Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 5, 1846–1873*, MS, 315; Town of Wenham, *Report of the Selectmen* (1866):2, (1869):2; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Wenham, For the Year Ending March 1871* (Salem, MA: Salem Gazette and Mercury, 1871):10, (1872):6, (1877):8, (1878):8-9, (1879):8-9; and Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Selectmen* (1872):4, 11, (1877):4, 13, (1878):4, (1879):4, (1880):4.

Lizzie wasn't teaching in Wenham or in Middleton during 1866 or 1867. See Town of Middleton, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Middleton, For the Year Ending March 1, 1866* (Salem, MA: Salem Gazette Press, 1866); and Town of Middleton, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Middleton* (no publisher: 1867).

For the Berry sisters, see Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1863): 5-6, (1864):7; and Findagrave.com, memorials #144846061 and 144846069.

K. They praise her for the academic progress made by each of her classes … and for the discipline she exercised to keep her students in line.

Acquisition and Expansion of the Farm

We have already seen that, by the time of the 1855 census, three of Solomon's siblings (John, Thomas 4th and Sarah J. Kimball) had died and three other siblings had moved out of the house (Edmund and Ebenezer had moved to the Midwest, while Nancy had married)—and Solomon was sharing the Thomas Kilham house with his mother, sister Betsey, and his mother's boarders. The next year he bought out Edmund, Ebenezer and Nancy (excluding the Hobbs Lot, which Nancy retained),[209] and thus owned everything but the Hobbs Lot and sister Betsey's and mother Nancy's shares of the farm. In 1859 Solomon and his brother-in-law Joseph G. Kent (1811–1897) bought sixteen acres of woodland in Leach's Swamp that abutted Solomon's farm (Figures 1.19 and 4.59).[210] Betsey Kimball died in 1864 and Nancy (Elwell) Kimball died in 1865, both dying intestate; the next year Solomon's surviving siblings sold him their interests in the farm that they had inherited from Betsey.[211]

209 Essex County Deeds 531:286 (Edmund Kimball to Solomon E. Kimball, 1856), 531:287 (Ebenezer S. Kimball to Solomon E. Kimball, 1856), and 536:296 (Nancy and Joseph Kent to Solomon E. Kimball, 1856). For Nancy (Kimball) Kent's retention of the Hobbs Lot, see Essex County Deeds 2256:516 (Joseph F. Kent to Elwell F. Kimball, 1914).

When the town did a valuation in 1860 Solomon was assessed for the house, "other buildings," 54½ acres in four lots, and "stock on the farm." See Town of Wenham, *Valuation* (1860), 9.

210 Essex County Deeds 596:118 (John Conant *et al.* to Joseph G. Kent and Solomon E. Kimball, 1859).

211 Essex County Deeds 708:111 (Edmund Kimball *et al.* to Solomon E. Kimball, 1866).

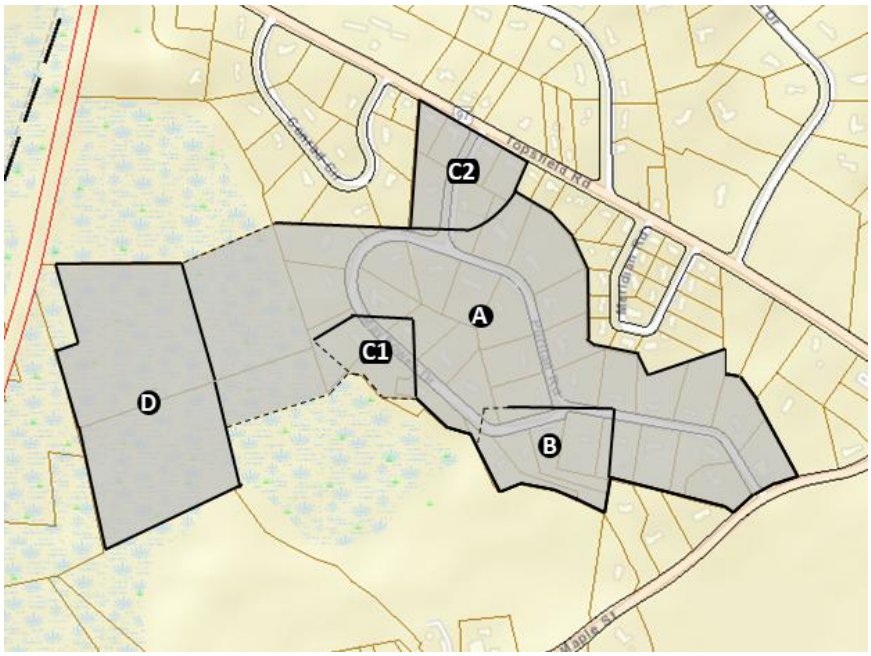

Figure 4.59. The Solomon E. Kimball Farm, 1859. In 1856 Solomon bought out his surviving siblings for much of his late father's farm (sisters Nancy and Betsey retaining ownership of the five-acre Hobbs Lot, the two-acre Swamp Orchard and the four-acre Upper Field). In 1859 he and his brother-in-law Joseph G. Kent bought sixteen acres of woodland in Leach's Swamp.[212]

Constituent Lots

A. The former Thomas Kimball 3rd Farm, excluding the portions inherited by Nancy (Kimball) Kent and Betsey E. Kimball
B. The Hobbs Lot, Nancy (Kimball) Kent
C1. The Swamp Orchard, Betsey E. Kimball
C2. The Upper Field, Betsey E. Kimball
D. John Conant *et al.* to Joseph G. Kent and Solomon E. Kimball, 1859

212 Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For Lot D, see Essex County Deeds Plan 2390:48 ("Division of Woodlot in Wenham Between Solomon Kimball & John K. Kent," 1918).

In 1860 the farm was described as 55 acres of improved land and 25 acres of unimproved land. It was valued at $2300. The Kimballs had one horse, three cows and a bull, two sheep and two pigs—worth a total of $240. That year the farm produced 25 bushels of Indian corn, eight pounds of wool, a bushel of peas or beans, 30 bushels of Irish potatoes, 9 bushels of barley, $20-worth of orchard-grown produce, 300 pounds of butter, ten tons of hay, and $55-worth of slaughtered livestock.[213] Ten years later the farm was valued at $2500. Solomon had one horse, eight cows and a pig—worth a total of $475.[214] In 1880 the farm was still valued at $2500: twelve acres of tilled land, 25 acres of pasture and/or orchard, sixteen acres of woodland, and two other acres of unimproved land. He owned one horse, six cows, and 125 head of poultry—worth a total of $300. During the preceding year his farm produced $800 worth of goods, including 2,000 gallons of milk and 800 eggs. He had a hired hand(s) who worked a total of three weeks, being paid $25 in wages. Solomon had planted a quarter acre of Irish potatoes that yielded 25 bushels … had a 1¼-acre orchard of 75 apple trees and twelve pear trees that yielded $30-worth of fruit … and harvested five cords of wood worth $200.[215]

In 1890 Solomon's farm was valued at $2300: The house being valued at $800, a barn at $200, "henneries" at $75, a "shop" at $25, thirteen acres of tillage land at $650, twenty acres of pasture at $350, and seventeen acres of woodland at $200. Solomon owned $50 "money at interest," a horse, five cows and a carriage.[216] The valuation poses a couple of unanswered questions. The barn was no doubt the North Kimball Barn depicted in Figures I.2-I.3 (Appendix I, Volume 2). But what of the "shop"? Was it the same

Continued on p. 126

213 United States Census Bureau, 1860 Federal Census, Wenham, Productions of Agriculture (Schedule 4), 7-8. The town valued the farm at $2125; see Town of Wenham, *Valuation* (1860), 9.

214 United States Census Bureau, 1870 Federal Census, Wenham, Productions of Agriculture (Schedule 3), 2.

215 United States Census Bureau, 1870 Federal Census, Wenham, Productions of Agriculture (Schedule 2), 6. Was his interest in poultry a new thing? We can't know for sure because the 1870 census did not track poultry as a separate category. But it's worth noting that Briggs & Co., *The Essex County Directory for 1888–89* (Boston: Briggs & Co., 1888), 159, 477 identified Solomon as a poultry breeder, while Henry M. Meek, *The Naumkeag District Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Wenham, Middleton, No. 4, 1888–9* (Salem, MA: Salem Observer, 1888), 753 identified him as a farmer.

216 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List and State, County and Town Tax of the Town of Wenham, For the Year 1890* (Salem, MA: Essex County Mercury, 1891), 38-39.

Figure 4.60. Solomon and Lizzie (Fairfield) Kimball, *ca*.1890. This is the earliest image of the interior of the Thomas Kilham House. Based on the location of the window, this room might be the northeast room on the ground floor. Solomon is seated at a marble-topped Rococo Revival table that is partially covered with an embroidered cloth. His right arm rests on two books placed on the table. The object at the center of the table is difficult to decipher: An ornate urn, trimmed with lace and filled with flower-like bundles of cloth? The artwork on the wall is a reminder that Solomon's maternal grandfather was a mariner. As for the walls themselves—oh, the wallpaper![217]

217 Photograph by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921); date not recorded. Wenham Museum, B. H. Conant Collection, x2016.501. While there's no guarantee that Nancy was on the cutting edge of fashion, her dress *doesn't* include the small vertical puff at each shoulder that's characteristic of dresses of the mid-1890s, nor the leg-o-mutton sleeves characteristic of the latter 1890s—which allows us to date the photograph to the period when the Kimballs were still living in the Thomas Kilham House, i.e., prior to 1894. Indeed, similarly styled dresses, in dated photographs taken by Conant in Wenham in 1890 and 1891, appear in Wenham Historical Association & Museum, *Wenham in Pictures and Prose* (Wenham, MA: Wenham Historical Association & Museum, 1992), 89 and Annette V. Janes, *Images of America: Wenham* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 103, 104.

building identified as the "old shop" in Huldah Kimball's 1813 widow's dower? Could it have been a ten-footer shoe shop, perhaps, given Solomon's history with shoemaking? Perhaps the "shop" was indeed the same as Huldah's "old shop," and perhaps Solomon's father Thomas Kimball 3rd likewise was a part-time shoemaker.

In 1898 the farm was valued at $3175: The value of the house had increased to $1150, the barn increased to $350, the "henneries" stayed at $75, the "shop" increased to $50, thirteen acres of tillage land increased to $800, twenty acres of pasture increased to $450, and seventeen acres of woodland increased to $300.[218]

Solomon was party to one other real estate transaction, one that didn't involve the family farm. In 1861 Nancy (Elwell) Kimball gave Stephen P. Perley (1818–1893) a mortgage on the property at 88 Maple Street (two acres with house, barn and shoemaker's shop). Later that year Perley sold the property to Solomon Kimball, who the same day sold the property to Edward F. White (1827–1910).[219]

Ground Floor Renovation

Solomon and Lizzie (Fairfield) Kimball made a particular change to the house that has left a lasting impact on its appearance. They replaced the south-facing ground floor windows—which by the time Solomon was born were likely the size of the current west- and east-facing ground floor windows—with the much larger, nearly floor-to-ceiling windows seen in Figure 4.61. This element is often associated with mid-nineteenth-century houses in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles (Figure 4.62), but it is also occasionally found in the context of a nineteenth-century renovation to earlier houses (Figure 4.63).[220]

The Kimballs also built a porch along the east-facing wall of the house. The porch was approached by five steps, displayed open-work balusters, and had open latticework below the deck. The edge of the half-gable supporting

218 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1898), 14. Solomon was not taxed on personal property; the valuation indicated that he had moved to Newburyport.

219 Essex County Deeds 629:25 (Stephen P. Perley to Solomon E. Kimball, 1861), 629:26 (Solomon E. Kimball to Edward F. White, 1861), and 657:265 (Edward F. White to Stephen Cook, 1863). The property was the "S. Cook" and adjacent "Shoe Sh[op]" shown on the map in Figure 4.64, northwest of the intersection of Maple and Burley Streets.

220 Subsequent owner Evelyn Pescosolido thought that the windows might date from "sometime around the 1870s." See Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q.

the roof was serrated, suggesting that the half-gable wall may have been vertically oriented beadboard, suggestive of the Queen Anne style of the 1880s and 1890s. It's unknown whether it may have replaced an earlier porch. (The porch was replaced by a greenhouse in the 1960s. That greenhouse was removed and the porch rebuilt in 2008—with the image in Figure 4.61 as the inspiration for the new porch's design.)

Figure 4.61. The Thomas Kilham House, photographed in 1900. This is the earliest image of the exterior of the Thomas Kilham House. The house displays a brick chimney, shallow eaves, shingle roofing, clapboard siding, and 2-over-2 windows on the second floor and ground floors. A stovepipe projects through the north-facing pane of the roof. The front door is centered in an entry that projects from the plane of the south-facing wall—the entry displaying clapboard siding on its short walls, two recessed panels on either side of the door, and a railing system on its roof. The door itself has two inset windows (each with a round top and frosted glass or more likely lace curtains on the interior) and two recessed panels. A small barn appears to the left, the barn with shingle roofing and siding, and a 6-over-6 window.[221]

221 Photographed September 27, 1900 by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921). Image courtesy of the Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts, B. H. Conant Collection, #01757.

Figure 4.62. The Capt. Edmund Kimball House, 225 Main Street, built sometime between 1852 and 1856. Large-format windows, such as those added by Solomon and Lizzie Kimball to the ground floor of the Thomas Kilham House, are a feature found on many mid-nineteenth-century houses in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles.[222]

222 December 23, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. Although the Greek Revival portico was added to the house between 1900 and 1904, photographs from 1900 show the large-format windows on the ground floor prior to the construction of the portico. For 1900 photographs by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921), see Wenham Museum, B. H. Conant Collection, #01705 and #01707; for 1904 photographs by Conant, see #02190 and #02191. See also Harold W. Boothroyd *et al.*, "Capt. Edmund Kimball House" (1972), Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, Inventory No. WNH.53.

Capt. Edmund Kimball (1786–1879) was an uncle of Solomon E. Kimball and was the owner of the Thomas Kilham House for two weeks in May 1823.

Figure 4.63. The John Willet House, 77 Main Street, Boxford, built *ca.*1774. The Thomas Kilham House wasn't the only Colonial-period house that was retrofitted with large-format windows during the nineteenth century.[223]

223 December 23, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. For construction date, see Martha L. Clark and Brenda Moore Stickney, *Images of America: Boxford* (Charleston, SC, Arcadia Publishing, 2001), 43.

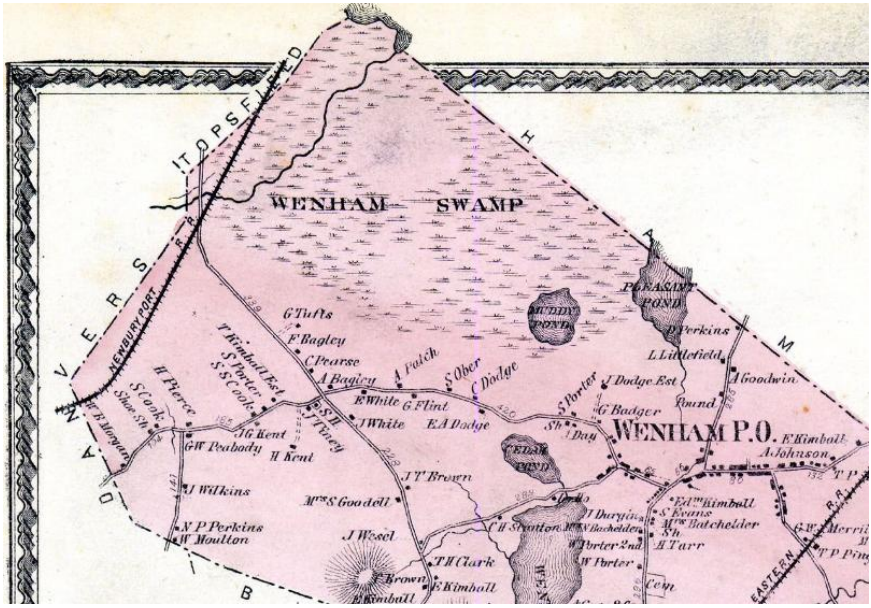

Figure 4.64. West Wenham and the center of town, 1872. Like the Walling map of 1856, the Thomas Kilham House is identified as "T[homas] Kimball Est[ate]"—even though the house was owned by Solomon Kimball.[224]

224 Beers, *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts* (1872), 95. The houses along the north side of proto-Maple Street were those for Thomas Kimball 3rd's heirs (*sic*), Sylvanus Porter, Samuel S. Cook, Harvey Pierce, Stephen Cook (along with a shoe shop) and William B. Morgan. Along the south side of the street, the School House is followed by houses for John [H.] Tiney, Henry S. Kent, Joseph G. Kent, and George W. Peabody.

Boarder in the Solomon Kimball Household

JOSEPH W. PEABODY (1849–1871)

Joseph William Peabody, son of shoemaker William and Anna Dodge (Patch) Peabody, was born on February 24, 1849 in Wenham and died of phthisis on November 15, 1871 in Wenham.[225] In the 1870 census he was living in the Solomon Kimball household, and gave his occupation as "laborer."[226] The record of his death doesn't indicate where he was living in Wenham at the time of his death, and we don't know whether he was still working for Kimball in 1871.

225 United States Census Bureau, 1850 Federal Census, Wenham, 612; Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1855 State Census, Wenham, 24; United States Census Bureau, 1860 Federal Census, Wenham, 35; Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1865 State Census, Wenham, 8; Town of Wenham, *Deaths, Vol. 5, 1851–1900*, MS, Town Clerk's Office, Wenham, 26; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 67; Peabody (1909), 320; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (2004), 34:351, 238:269; and Findagrave.com, memorial #61421825.

Joint gravestone of Joseph W. Peabody and other members of the Peabody and Tyler families, Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. December 22, 2021 transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

East-facing pane:	*South-facing pane:*	*West-facing pane:*
SARAH P.	WILLIAM PEABODY	MARY C. WIFE OF
1844–1864	1820–1888	JOHN TYLER
JOSEPH W.	ANNA D. HIS WIFE	1847–1889
1849–1871	1820–1861	ANNIE R.
ANNA, 6 MOS.		1866–1871
	PEABODY	TYLER

North-facing pane is blank.

226 United States Census Bureau, 1870 Federal Census, Wenham, 2-3.

Figure 4.65. Joint gravestone of Joseph W. Peabody and other members of the Peabody family.[227]

227 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham, Massachusetts. December 23, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See footnote 225 for transcription.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood:

- A Proposed Road to Topsfield, 1875
- Names of West Wenham Hills, 1880s & 1890s

In 1875 a petition was brought forward to construct a new road connecting Topsfield and West Wenham. The road was to traverse Leach's Swamp and Harvey Pierce's land and end near the intersection of current-day Maple Street and Burley Street. It would have provided a direct route from Topsfield to Danversport ("old" Burley Street not having to contend with Beverly Airport at the time). The matter made its way to town meeting but was voted down.[228]

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We saw in Chapter 1 that—by the early eighteenth century (if not earlier)—"Meadow Hill" was the name given to the hill traversed by Topsfield Road that crests between Daniels Road and Conrad Circle. By the late nineteenth century, however, the hill had come to be called "Causeway Hill."[229]

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By the late nineteenth century, the hill at the west end of Maple Street, on the Danvers town line, was called "Hobbs Hill."[230]

228 Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 6, 1873–1887*, MS, 36-40.

229 *Ibid*., 229, 264-265. In 1881 West Wenham resident William B. Morgan (1819–1900) made a motion in town meeting to authorize the hiring of an engineer to estimate the cost of regrading "the road over Causeway Hill … from Bagley's corner to the Topsfield line." "Bagley's corner" was a reference to Almon F. Bagley (1819–1872), who had owned the former Fairfield Farm at the corner of Cherry Street and Topsfield Road, Figure 1.36. The matter was tabled in 1882.

230 Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 7, 1887–1898*, MS, 299. In 1894 would-be hill-regrader William B. Morgan was back at town meeting, attempting to get the town to approve the "widening, straightening and relocating [of] Maple Street at Hobbs Hill."

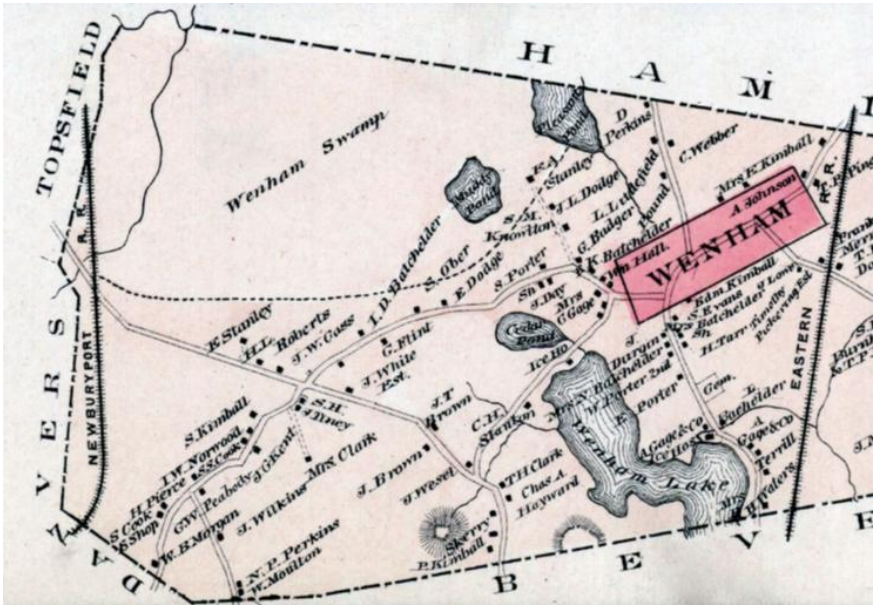

Figure 4.66. West Wenham and the center of town, 1884. S[olomon] Kimball is shown as the owner of the Thomas Kilham House.[231]

231 George H. Walker & Co., *Atlas of Essex County* (Boston: G. H. Walker & Co., 1884), 87. The houses along the north side of proto-Maple Street were those for Solomon Kimball, I. Walter Norwood, Samuel S. Cook, Harvey Pierce, Stephen Cook (along with a shoe shop) and William B. Morgan. Along the south side of the street, the School House is followed by houses for John [H.] Tiney, Mrs. Mary M. Clark, Joseph G. Kent, and George W. Peabody.

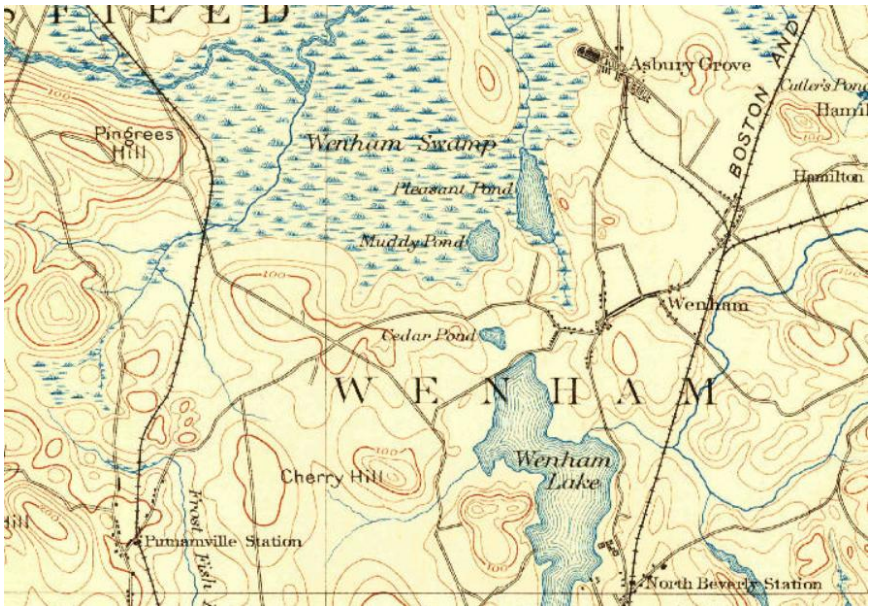

Figure 4.67. Topographical map of Wenham, 1886. Lord's Hill is mislabeled as "Cherry Hill." Indeed, Cherry Hill is the hill to the south of Lord's Hill, a part of which appears at the lower margin of this view.[232]

232 United States Geological Survey, *Massachusetts (Essex County) Salem Quadrangle, 1886* (U.S. Department of the Interior, 1888). The Cherry Hill mistake was corrected in the 1917 edition.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Naming the Streets, 1887–1888

At the 1887 annual town meeting a committee was formed to come up with names for each street in town. The committee recommended that "Cherry Street" be the name given to the road that corresponds to current-day Cherry Street *and* Maple Street.

The name "Maple Street" was recommended for a road in Wenham Neck that ran from Grapevine Road to the Hamilton town line. The 1888 town meeting, however, voted to change the name of that road to Chebacco Street, and to rename the western portion of Cherry Street to Maple Street.

The committee's recommendation for West Wenham's other street names stuck: Bomer Street (renamed about fifteen years later to Topsfield Road), Burley Street, Cedar Street and Flint Street (Figure 1.14, Chapter 1, Volume 1).[233]

233 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1887):27, (1888):25-26, (1889):22; and Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 7, 1887–1898*, MS, 33-34.

"Bomer Street" was defined as the road running from the Beverly town line to the Topsfield town line. But this street name had started falling out of use by 1902. Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1902), 44 described "Topsfield Road" as running from the Beverly town line to the Topsfield town line, and its list of streets doesn't even mention Bomer Street. But compare the descriptions of Luther W. Batchelder's property at the corner of Cherry Street and current-day Topsfield Road in Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1906), 3 (which refers to "Bomer Street") and Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1909), 4 (which refers to "Topsfield Road"). And the name lingered: "Bomer Street" appears in *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 34.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The Mapleville Chapel, 1889

In 1889 a Baptist church was founded in West Wenham, and its members built the Mapleville Chapel at the corner of Maple Street and Topsfield Road, next to the West Wenham School (Figure 1.12, Chapter 1, Volume 1, and Figure 5.14). The church disbanded in 1946, and the next year gave its land and chapel building to the town. The building was moved in 1948 to School Street, where it is currently used as the Wenham Council on Aging's Senior Center.[234]

The oldest references found to "Mapleville" as a place name are from the 1870s. Subsequent references are included in the postings of the warrant for town meeting for 1890 through 1948, when a copy of the warrant was posted each year at the chapel. The place name also appears in a series of North Shore social registers between 1907 and 1922.[235] But in 1949, once the chapel was gone, references to Mapleville disappeared from town records.

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234 Secretary of the Commonwealth, *Abstracts of the Certificates of Corporations Organized Under the General Laws of Massachusetts … During the Year 1889* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1890), 17; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Hamilton, Manchester, Middleton, Topsfield and Wenham, No. 23, 1915* (Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1915), 1333; Cole (1943), 145-146; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1947):66-67, 72, 93, 116, (1948):89, 109-110, (1949):67, 69-70; and Wenham Historical Association & Museum (1992), 128-129. Essex County Deeds 1243:406 (John H. Tiney to James W. Cass, 1889), 1262:396 (James W. Cass to Mapleville Chapel Association, 1889), 1265:542 (Mapleville Chapel Association to George A. Woodbury 2nd, mortgage, 1889), and 3524:548 (Mapleville Chapel Association to Town of Wenham, 1947). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 60:12 ("Plan of a Portion of Topsfield Road from the Topsfield Line to Beyond Maple Street," 1931), sheet 5, and Plan 1947:221 ("Land of Town of Wenham in Wenham, Mass.," 1946).

235 Wellington Pool, "The Gott Family from 1628," in Edith G. Mills, "The Gott Family," *The Essex Genealogist,* 3 (1983):24; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1875), 9; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1890):28, (1891):27, (1892):25, (1893):27, (1894):26, (1895):29, (1896):28, (1897):30, (1898):34, (1899):37, (1900):44, (1901):39, (1902):41, (1903):32, (1904):30, (1905):32, (1906):36, (1907):32, (1908):47, (1909):54, (1910):56,

The Kimballs' Move to Newburyport and Solomon's Retirement

In 1894 Solomon gave up farming and moved his family to Newburyport, mortgaging the Maple Street farm for three years. He opened a grocery store at the corner of State and Prospect Streets (Figures 4.68-4.69), a store that he operated until 1917 or 1918. The Kimballs lived nearby at 2 Otis Place until about 1897. They lived at 38 Prospect Street by 1898 and for the remainder of their time in Newburyport. We don't know why he moved from Wenham to Newburyport. A financial panic in 1893 triggered a nationwide economic depression. Perhaps (especially at his age of 63) farming became unworkable, or perhaps something about the economy made food distribution seem especially attractive?[236] By 1897—and perhaps as early as 1894—

Continued on p. 142

(1911):81, (1912):61, (1913):62, (1914):71, (1915):59, (1916):61, (1917):60, (1918):63, (1919):57, (1920):64, (1922):59, (1923):66, (1924):65, (1925):64, (1926):51, (1927):65, (1928):64, (1929):60, (1930):61, (1931):92, (1932):54, (1933):77, (1934):86, (1935):86, (1936):80, (1937):92, (1938):87, (1939):80, (1941):150, (1942):94, (1943):136, (1944):171, (1945):119, (1946):96, (1947):111, (1948):115; O. W. Walker, *Atlas of Massachusetts* (Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1900), 26; and Albert W. Dennis, *Who's Who Along the North Shore of Massachusetts Bay* (Salem, MA: Salem Press Company, 1907), 145, (1908):208, (1909):279, (1910):307, (1911):332, (1912):346, (1913):329 (1914):357, (1915): 347, (1916):340, (1917):327, (1918):318, (1919):379, (1920):329, (1921):327, (1922):329.

236 Essex County Deeds 1423:131 (Solomon E. Kimball to Margaret A. Hale, mortgage, 1894). The mortgage identifies Kimball as being "of Wenham" and Hale "of Newburyport." The mortgage was for three years at 4% interest. It wasn't discharged, though, until 1917 (right around the time that newly widowed Solomon was getting ready to retire); see Essex County Deeds 2375:105 (Margaret A. Hale to Solomon E. Kimball, discharge, 1917). Although it was common practice at the time for Wenham residents to record a copy of their mortgage with the town clerk, no such copy is found in Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham: Mortgages etc., Volume 2, 1877 to 1927*, MS, Town Clerk's Office, Wenham.

Kimball attended the March 1892 Wenham town meeting; see Town of Wenham, *Town Records, Vol. 7, 1887–1898*, MS, 198. He does not appear in the Newburyport directory published in 1892, and no Newburyport directory seems to have been published in 1893; see Sampson, Murdock & Co., *The Newburyport and Amesbury Directory, 1892–3* (Newburyport, MA: H. L. Pearson, 1892). But he does appear in the Newburyport directories beginning in 1894. For the Newburyport years, see Sampson, Murdock & Co., *The Newburyport and Amesbury Directory* (1894):14, 95, 364, (1896):12, 94, 363, (1898):5, (1900):91, (1902):93; Sampson & Murdock Company, (1904):131, (1906): 136, (1908):137, (1910):148, (1912):142, (1914):140, (1916), 143; United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Newburyport, Essex County, Massachusetts, 3:420:3; and United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Newburyport, Essex County, Massachusetts, 3:433:9.

S. E. KIMBALL,
— DEALER IN —
FIRST CLASS FAMILY GROCERIES.
Best Goods at Low Prices.
FINE TEA AND COFFEE A SPECIALTY.
87 State St., corner Prospect St.
NEWBURYPORT, MASS.

Figure 4.68. Advertisement for Solomon Kimball's grocery store, Newburyport, 1894.[237]

237 Sampson, Murdock & Co., *The Newburyport and Amesbury Directory* (1894), 364. Kimball ran the same ad in Sampson, Murdock & Co. (1896), 363, but not in subsequent editions of the *Directory*.

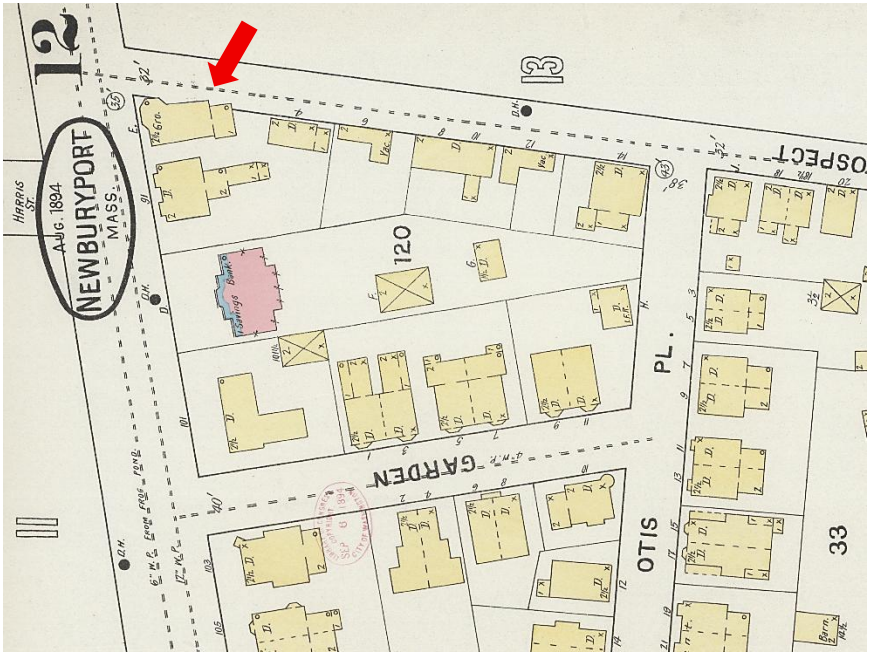

Figure 4.69. Site of Solomon Kimball's grocery store, Newburyport, 1894. The arrow points to the building that housed the grocery store, at the southeast corner of State and Prospect Streets. The site today is a parking lot.[238]

238 Sanborn Map Company, *Newburyport, Massachusetts, Essex County* (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1894), plate 12. The building at the corner of State and Prospect Streets is labeled "2½ Gro.," which denotes a two-and-a-half story building and a grocery.

he began renting his farm to the Bixby family, continuing to do so until his death.[239] (And the Bixbys had boarders. We'll learn more about the Bixbys and their boarders in the next chapter.) Assessments of the value of the farm, done by the town between 1905 and 1922, appear in Appendix L.

In 1916 he sold his Wenham Swamp lot—which had been his father's and had been conveyed to him by his siblings when he acquired their interests in the family farm—to the cities of Salem and Beverly, as part of the municipal project to build the Wenham Canal.[240] In 1918 he and his nephew John K. Kent (1844–1932) divided the Leach's Swamp lot that Solomon and Joseph G. Kent had bought jointly in 1859, both men taking one half of the lot.[241]

Solomon retired in 1918 and moved to Gloucester to live with his son and daughter-in-law. Son Elwell was the principal of the Gloucester High School on Dale Avenue and was living at 63 Western Avenue.[242] Elwell's

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239 Henry M. Meek, *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Hamilton, Wenham, Middleton and Topsfield, No. 8, 1897–98*. Salem, MA: Salem Observer, 1897. Wenham Directory, 1129. Head of household Charles W. Bixby (1844–1926) died in Wenham in 1926: Although no Wenham directory has been found for 1926, it's a reasonable assumption that the Bixbys were living in the Thomas Kilham House that year. But his widow Emeline (1842–1927) was living on Pleasant Street, Wenham, in 1927; see Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory, Including Hamilton and Wenham, Vol. XXV, 1927* (Beverly, MA: Crowley and Lunt, 1927), 878.

For Charles W. Bixby's residence on Maple Street, see Meek, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1897), 1129; United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 468:2; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1901):1103, (1905):1311, (1909):1385, (1911):1309, (1913):1320, (1915):1324; United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 486:9; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *Hamilton, Middleton, Topsfield, Wenham, Massachusetts Directory, Vol. 1, 1918* (Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1918), 131; United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 293:10; and Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1923), 806, 812, (1925):837, 840.

240 Essex County Deeds 2334:452 (Solomon E. Kimball to City of Salem *et al.*, 1916).

241 Essex County Deeds 2390:48 (Solomon E. Kimball to John K. Kent, 1918) and 2390:49 (John K. Kent to Solomon E. Kimball, 1918); and Essex County Deeds Plan 2390:48 ("Division of Woodlot in Wenham Between Solomon Kimball & John K. Kent," 1918). Solomon Kimball had already been paying all of the property tax on the lot, despite its joint ownership with the Kent family; see references to 17 acres of "woodland" in the assessments of 1905 through 1916 in Appendix L. In subsequent assessments the property is referred to as the combination of the 8-acre "Blind Hole woodland" and 8 ⅓-acre "Conant woodland."

242 Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Newburyport and Amesbury Directory, 1919–1920* (1918), 37: 131, which states that he "rem[oved] to Gloucester." Son and daughter-in-law Elwell and Luella Kimball appear in the Gloucester directories published in 1916 and 1918, but

career subsequently led him to move the family to North Grosvenor Dale, Connecticut,[243] and Solomon died there on September 4, 1924. He was buried in Wenham alongside Lizzie (Figure 4.70).[244]

Solomon does not; see Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Gloucester Directory 1917* (Gloucester, MA: Charles J. Gray, 1916), 25:175, and (1918):26:26, 153.

Solomon was living in Gloucester between 1919 and 1922, per Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1919):30, (1922):32; and United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Gloucester, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:46:9.

243 H. A. Manning, *Putnam, Connecticut Directory, Including Grosvenordale, Mechanicsville, North Grosvenordale, Wilsonville, For Year Beginning February 1928* (Springfield, MA: H. A. Manning Co., 1928), 422.

244 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1925), 30.

1830 SOLOMON E. KIMBALL 1924
1840 LIZZIE G. (FAIRFIELD) KIMBALL 1916
1874 LUELLA M. (SIDMORE) KIMBALL 1949
1873 ELWELL F. KIMBALL 1957
1900 MARY B. (SITLER) KIMBALL
PERPETUAL CARE

Figure 4.70. Joint gravestone of Solomon E. Kimball (1830–1924) and Lizzie G. (Fairfield) Kimball (1840–1916), their son Elwell F. Kimball (1873–1957) and daughters-in-law Luella M. (Sidmore) Kimball (1874–1949) and Mary B. (Sitler) Kimball (1900–1985).[245]

245 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham. December 28, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. See also Findagrave.com, memorials #235357799, 235358056, 235358244, 235358423 and 235358540.

CHAPTER 5

FARM FOR RENT

THERE were two periods in the history of the Thomas Kilham House when it was rented out when the owners weren't also living in the house. The first was from 1701 to 1725, when William Fairfield owned it—but unfortunately we don't know who his tenants were. The second period was from the 1890s through 1954 when the Kimball Family—first Solomon and then his son Elwell—rented out the house and farm, a period for which we have quite a bit of information, albeit incomplete. This chapter covers landlord Elwell F. Kimball (1873–1957) and those of his tenants and their respective boarders who have been identified.[1]

During this period one farm after another lined both sides of Maple Street, as had been the case since the seventeenth century. Most of the farms were open land, most of their trees relegated to property lines. Maple Street itself was what we might call a "country road": It was one of the last

1 Identifying tenants is more challenging than identifying owners. See Appendix M for the methodology used to identify tenants of the Thomas Kilham House in the federal censuses of 1900 through 1940, prior to the 1949 introduction of street numbers.

streets in town to be paved, and one of the last streets in town to receive town-supplied water. Its residents' mail came via rural free delivery from Danvers. (Picture the opening scene of the 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz*, but with more farmhouses and more trees lining the fields, *sans* Miss Gulch.)

But unlike prior history, the first half of the twentieth century was a period of significant social change for the neighborhood. Its residents reflected the larger context of European immigration, as more and more West Wenhamites were born outside the United States or had a parent born outside the country. Simultaneously, a fashion emerged where affluent residents of Boston's Back Bay (and others) bought West Wenham farms for their summer residences, creating a startling juxtaposition of economic inequality.

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ELWELL F. KIMBALL, OWNER OF THE HOUSE FROM 1924 TO 1955

The only child of Solomon E. and Elizabeth G. (Fairfield) Kimball, Elwell Fairfield Kimball was born on February 5, 1873 in Wenham, probably in the Thomas Kilham House. He died on March 27, 1957 at his home in Glen Rock, New Jersey.[2] Elwell was married twice. He married Luella May Sidmore on August 23, 1900 in Danvers, Massachusetts. The daughter of Stephen H. and Emma F. (Ridley) Sidmore, Luella was born on March 4, 1874 in Salem, Massachusetts and died on February 4, 1949 in Teaneck, New Jersey.[3] Their daughter Helen Elwell Kimball was born on July 19, 1904 in Lynn, Massachusetts.[4]

Elwell's second marriage was to Mary Balliet Sitler, whom he married on October 5, 1950 in Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania. The daughter of Daniel W. and Amanda E. (Balliet) Sitler, Mary was born on February 3, 1900 in Mauch Chunk and died on December 10, 1985 in Glen Rock, New Jersey.[5]

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2 Obituary, "Elwell Kimball, Educator, 84, Dies," *New York Times*, March 29, 1957, 21; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Wenham, Including the Reports of the School Committee and the Trustees of the Public Library, For the Year Ending December 31, 1957* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1958), 97; and "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910," online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, (2004), 250:328.

3 Obituary, "Mrs. Elwell F. Kimball," *New York Times*, February 6, 1949, 77; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1950), 83; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 259:316; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 500:348, 514.

4 "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 542:537. See also Findagrave.com, memorial #107755163.

5 "New Jersey, U.S., Death Index, 1901–2017," online database, Ancestry.com, 2016, 1985:581; "Pennsylvania, U.S., Marriages, 1852–1968," online database, Ancestry.com, 2016, Dauphin County, 1940–1941, 489 (marriage license for Jonathan Harlan Miller and Mary Balliet Sitler, May 20, 1941); and "U.S., Newspapers.com Marriage Index, 1800s-current," online database, Ancestry.com, 2020, citing *The Courier-News* [Bridgewater, New Jersey], August 21, 1950, 6.

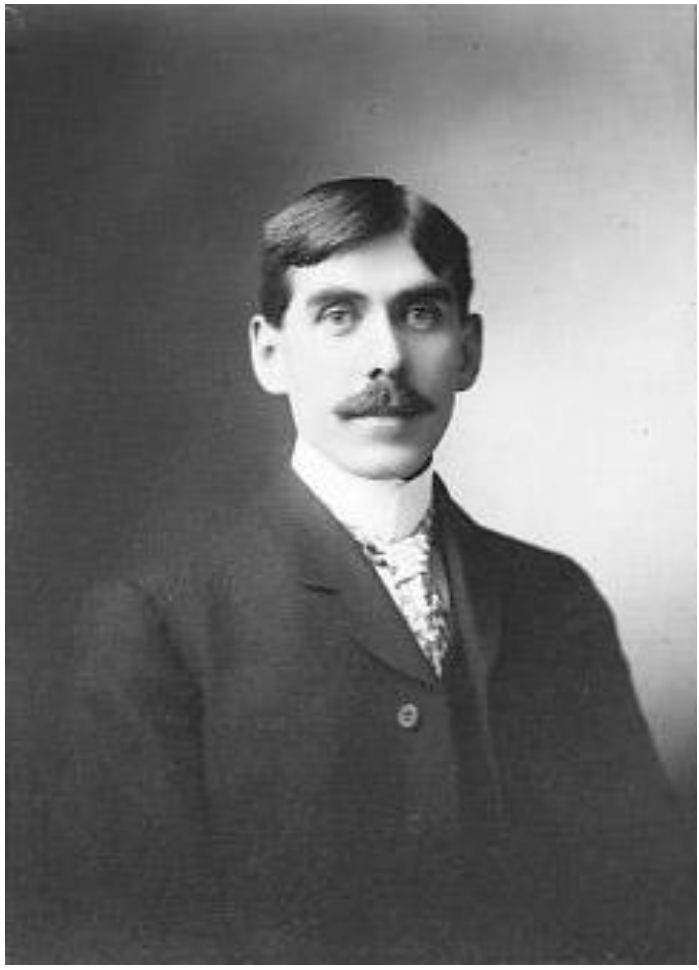

Figure 5.1. Elwell F. Kimball, *ca.*1900.[6]

6 Unidentified photographer; copy by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921). Wenham Museum, B. H. Conant Collection, x2016.500.

Elwell's Public Life

Elwell was a member of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Class of 1898. He studied applied mechanics, civil engineering, geology, mathematics and physics, and wrote his thesis on "Determination of Friction Losses at Low Velocities in a One-and-one-half-inch Wrought Iron Pipe." He lived at 7 Burlington Avenue, Boston, the MIT campus at the time being in Boston's Back Bay. His first job was with the New England Structural Company in East Everett, Massachusetts.[7]

By 1903 he had begun his career in education and was a teacher in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Later that year, though, he was a teacher of mechanical drawing and mathematics at English High School, Lynn, Massachusetts, living at 20 West Green Street and later at 48 High Rock Street, continuing at English High School until about 1914.[8] By 1915 he had moved to Gloucester, Massachusetts, where he lived at 63 Western Avenue, and was principal of

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7 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Thirty-First Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students* (Cambridge, MA: John Wilson and Son, 1896), 179; and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Thirty-Fourth Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students* (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1899), 305, 321, 338.

8 Sampson, Murdock & Co., *The Boston Directory, Containing the City Record, a Directory of the Citizens, Business Directory and Street Directory, No. XCI, For the Year Commencing July 1, 1895* (Boston: Sampson, Murdock & Co., 1895), 818; Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Lynn Directory, 1903, No. XXXVIII* (Lynn, MA: George C. Herbert, 1903), 443, (1909):380, (1912):374, (1913):370, (1915):388; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Thirty-Eighth Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students* (Boston: George H. Ellis, 1903), 321, 365; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Register of Graduates, 1903–1904* (Boston: George H. Ellis, 1904), 99, 244; City of Lynn, *The City Documents, Comprising the Mayor's Address, the Annual Reports for 1907, the Municipal Register, and the Chronological View of the Government of the City of Lynn* (Lynn, MA: Frank S. Whitten, 1908), 91 (sub-principal, English High School, 1906–1907), (1910):90, (1911):68-69, 90 (sub-principal, English High School, 1909–1910), (1913):78, 85 (sub-principal, English High School and principal, Evening High School, 1911–1912); Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Register of Former Students," *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston*, 44:3 (1909), 180 and 47:3 (1912), 237; Charles H. Smith, ed., "Real Applied Problems in Algebra and Geometry," *School Science and Mathematics*, 9 (1909): 610; and United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts, 4:388:27.

Kimball was not teaching in Fitchburg as of January 1903; he does not appear in the list of teachers in Town of Fitchburg, *1902: Thirtieth Annual Report of the School Committee of the City of Fitchburg, Mass.* (Fitchburg, MA: Blanchard & Brown, 1903), 33-35.

the Gloucester High School until 1920.[9] In 1917 he earned a Master of Education degree from Harvard.[10]

Kimball moved away from Massachusetts in 1920. From 1920 through 1928 he was superintendent of schools and principal of the Tourtellotte Memorial High School in Thompson, Connecticut.[11] He earned a Ph.D. from New York University in 1928, taught math there from 1928 to 1937, and taught summers at West Virginia and Bucknell Universities. He joined the faculty of Bergen Junior College (Teaneck, New Jersey) and became dean in 1935. In 1954, when Bergen Junior College was merged with Fairleigh Dickinson College, Kimball became dean emeritus of the new institution. In that capacity he was coordinator of the affiliation between Fairleigh Dickinson and the Commercial School of Instituto Edison of Havana.[12]

Luella's Public Life

Luella (Sidmore) Kimball taught school in Lynnfield, Massachusetts and was principal of the grammar school in Foxboro, Massachusetts. Her obituary noted that she had been a president of the North Grosvenordale (Connecticut) Chapter of the Federation of Women's Clubs, a member of the Danvers (Massachusetts) Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and "had spoken extensively before women's clubs."[13]

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9 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Register of Former Students," 50:3 (1915), 283 and 55:15 (1920), 332; United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Gloucester, 5:46:9; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Book: Class of '98* (Cambridge, MA: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1923), 36; and "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," online database, Ancestry.com, 2005, Gloucester City, Draft Board 22, Draft Card K.

10 Obituary, *New York Times*, March 29, 1957, 21.

11 Elwell F. Kimball, "Tourtellotte House," in Connecticut State Board of Education, *Connecticut Schools*, September 1922, 7; "Calendar" and "E. F. Kimball to Address Assembly," *The Connecticut Campus* [Storrs, CT], April 23, 1926, 1, 6; and United State Bureau of Education, *Educational Directory, 1927* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1927), 31, (1928): 31.

12 Obituary, *New York Times*, March 29, 1957, 21. See also Ruth A. Gray, "Doctors' Theses in Education, Pamphlet No. 60," (Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1935), 2.

13 Henry M. Meek, *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Essex and Manchester, No. 7, 1895-96* (Salem, MA: Salem Observer, 1895), 740 (teacher working in Lynnfield but living in Danvers); Meek, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1897), 803 (teacher working in Foxboro but living in Danvers); and obituary, *New York Times*, February 6, 1949, 77.

Mary's Public Life

Mary (Sitler) Kimball was a member of the Oberlin College Class of 1921. She taught government and history at Bergen Junior College, where Elwell was dean.[14]

Ownership and Sale of the Family Farm

In 1914 Kimball acquired the Hobbs Lot (Lot B in Figure 4.59) from his cousin Joseph F. Kent (1841–1917),[15] and ten years later he inherited his father's farm.[16] He continued to rent out the farm, as his father had done since the 1890s, and we'll learn about his tenants shortly. Assessments of the value of the farm, done by the town between 1925 and 1955, appear in Appendix L; they document the addition of a milk room by 1940 and repurposing of the stable to a combination of stable and garage by 1946.[17] In 1955 Kimball sold the family farm, selling the Upper Field to real estate broker Gordon B. Alley (1914–1992) and the rest of the farm (and buildings) to produce-grower/real estate investor George R. Wheeler (1893–1956).[18]

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14 Dorothy M. Smith, "Ten Thousand Strong," *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, 47 (January 1951): 18.

15 Essex County Deeds 2256:516 (Joseph F. Kent to Elwell F. Kimball, 1914).

16 Essex County Probate 150305 (Solomon E. Kimball, 1924).

17 Kimball mortgaged the farm on three occasions. See Essex County Deeds 2668:44 (Elwell F. Kimball to Roger Conant Co-Operative Bank, mortgage, 1925), 2695:597(Elwell F. Kimball to Roger Conant Co-Operative Bank, mortgage, 1926), 3003:572 (Elwell F. Kimball to Roger Conant Co-Operative Bank, mortgage, 1934), 3380:337 (Roger Conant Co-Operative Bank, discharge, 1940), and 4145:371 (Roger Conant Co-Operative Bank, discharge, 1955).

18 Essex County Deeds 4145:110 (Elwell F. Kimball to George R. Wheeler, 1955) and 4146: 140 (Elwell F. Kimball to Gordon B. Alley, 1955); and Essex County Deeds Plan 1955:149 ("Plan of Land Belonging to Elwell F. Kimball, Wenham, Mass.," 1955), the Upper Field.

In 1931 Elwell Kimball lost a bit of land with frontage on Topsfield Road when that road was widened. See Essex County Deeds 2887:409 (Taking of Easement, 1931) and Plan 60:12 ("Plan of a Portion of Topsfield Road," 1931), sheet 3.

In 1940 Elwell Kimball retitled his ownership of the farm, putting it in his name jointly with wife Luella. See Essex County Deeds 3249:589 (Elwell F. Kimball to Mabelle Trask, 1940) and 3249:590 (Mabelle Trask to Elwell F. and Luella M. Kimball, 1940).

In order to document his title to the farm, Elwell filed death certificates for his maiden aunts Betsey E. Kimball and Sarah J. Kimball, and an affidavit stating that both had died unmarried and without children. See Essex County Deeds 4145:107 (Betsey E. Kimball, death certificate, 1955), 4145:108 (Sarah J. Kimball, death certificate, 1955), and 4145:109 (Elwell F. Kimball, affidavit, 1955).

THE BIXBY FAMILY, TENANTS FROM *CA.*1897 TO *CA.*1926

Charles W. Bixby (1844–1926) and his wife **Emeline (1842–1927)** were living in the house as early as 1897 and as late as 1926; their son **Charles M. Bixby (1880–1969)** was living in the house by 1897 and as late as 1909.[19] Charles Warren Bixby, son of shoemaker Hasket G. and Harriet E. (Blodgett) Bixby, was born on October 11, 1844 in Boxford, Massachusetts, and died on March 16, 1926 in Wenham, possibly in the Thomas Kilham House.[20] He

19 Directories of the town of Wenham and census records show that they were living in the house in 1897, 1900, 1901, 1905, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1915, 1918, 1920 and 1922 through 1925. Unfortunately, no town directories have been found for 1894–1896, so we can't confirm whether the Bixbys started renting the house immediately after the Kimballs moved to Newburyport. Also unfortunately, the series of town directories between 1897 and 1927 is incomplete: Henry Meek's *The Naumkeag Directory* (which covered Salem and nearby towns) wasn't published in 1898, 1900, 1902, 1919, 1923, or 1925 and did not cover Wenham in 1899, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1924 or 1926. Henry Meeks published *The Beverly Directory*, but the only editions found during the research of this book were those for 1905 and 1911, and they did not cover Wenham. In addition, Meek published directories for Hamilton and nearby towns (including Wenham) in 1918 and 1921, although not in the intervening years. Crowley and Lunt's *The Beverly City Directory* covered Wenham in 1923, 1925 and 1927 but not in intervening or prior years. Meek's *The Gloucester Suburban Directory* did not cover Wenham until 1924; copies of the editions for 1925 through 1927 were not found.

Meek, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1897), 1129; United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 468:2; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1901), 1103; (1905):1311, (1907):1311, (1909):1385, (1911):1309, (1913): 1320, (1915):1324; United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 486:9; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *Hamilton, Middleton, Topsfield, Wenham, Massachusetts Directory, Vol. 1, 1918* (Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1918), 131; United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 293:10; Town of Wenham, *Valuation List and State, County and Town Tax of the Town of Wenham, For the Year 1922* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1922), 3, (1925):3; Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory, Including Hamilton, Wenham and Asbury Grove, Vol. XXI, 1923* (Beverly, MA: Crowley and Lunt, 1923), 812, (1925):837, 840; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Gloucester Suburban Directory, Including Towns of Essex, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, Wenham and Beverly, Volume 3, 1924* (Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1924), 392, 414; and Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1927), 50. See also Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1927), 879, 891, which states that Emeline had moved to Pleasant Street, Wenham, by 1927.

20 Town of Topsfield, *Births, Deaths & Marriages*, MS, C:114 (Ancestry.com, Topsfield Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 332); Topsfield Historical Society, *Vital Records of Topsfield, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1903), 16; Topsfield Historical Society, *Vital Records of Boxford, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA:

married Emeline E. Bray (2nd) on June 12, 1868 in Danvers, Massachusetts. The daughter of James M. and Betsey A. (Hough) Bray, Emeline was born on or about August 28, 1842 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and was named after her older sister Emeline who died in 1841. Emeline (Bray) Bixby died on July 28, 1927 in Wenham (having moved out of the Thomas Kilham House after her husband's death).[21]

The Bixbys had three children, the first two of whom died before the family moved into the Thomas Kilham House.

Children:

1. Alice M. Bixby was born on October 2, 1871 in Danvers, Massachusetts and died on September 14, 1872 in Danvers.[22]
2. Nellie Howe Bixby was born on December 21, 1873 in Danvers and died on October 29, 1888 in Beverly, Massachusetts.[23]
3. Charles Munroe Bixby was born on March 20, 1880 in Danvers and died on March 15, 1969 in Wenham. He married Mary Jane Rogers on July 16, 1910 in Hamilton, Massachusetts. We'll learn more about her below in the discussion of the Bixby family's boarders. Charles was living with his parents in the Thomas Kilham House, working as a farm hand, as late as 1909. He moved to Cherry Street by the time of the 1910 census. By 1911, after he had married Mary Jane, they were living on Friend Court, Wenham.[24]

Newcomb & Gauss, 1905), 14; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1927), 50; and Findagrave.com, memorial #127929141.

21 Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Gloucester, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1923–1924), 3:75; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1928), 48; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 208:164; and Findagrave.com, memorial #127929142. In 1927 Emeline was living with her niece Annie C. (George) Knowlton on Pleasant Street in Wenham; see Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory,* (1927), 879, 891.

22 "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 232:187; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 247:209; and Findagrave.-com, memorial #127929139.

23 "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 250:196; and "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915" (2013), 391:211.

24 United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Wenham, 468:2; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1901):1103, (1905):1311, (1907):1311, (1909):1385, (1911):1309; United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Wenham, 486:8; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1911):42, (1970):60; "Massachusetts,

Charles W. Bixby was a veteran of the Civil War, having enlisted on August 14, 1862 from Topsfield, Massachusetts and serving in Company F of the 40th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (Figures 5.2-5.3). He was mustered out on June 16, 1865 when the regiment was disbanded.[25] Census records for 1900, 1910 and 1920 tell us that he was a farmer. Town assessments from 1898 through 1919 (Figure 5.4) document the fluctuations in the number and type of his livestock, showing that his farming operation wasn't especially large.[26] Indeed, he augmented farming by working part-time for the town's highway department from 1896 through 1900, and in 1904 and 1905.[27] Town directories through 1924 identify him as a farmer, whereas the 1925 directory says that he had retired.[28]

Continued on p. 159

U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 313:192; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 594:713; and Findagrave.com, memorial #68198503.

25 Adjutant General's Office, *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War* (Norwood, MA: The Norwood Press, 1931–1932), 4:106-107, 130; and "U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934," online database, Ancestry.com, 2000, #378558.

26 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1898):6, (1909):4, (1911):4, (1912):4, (1913):5, (1914):5, (1915):5, (1916):5, (1919):5. United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Wenham, 478: 2; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1906), 28 (1905 selection by the town as a juror, identified as a farmer); United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Wenham, 486:9; and United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Wenham, 293:10.

27 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1897):8, 12, (1898):9, 13, (1899):14, (1900):10, 15, (1905):9, (1906):6.

28 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1925), 840.

Figure 5.2. Camp of the 40th Massachusetts Infantry at Mainer's Hill, Virginia, winter of 1862–1863.[29]

29 Unidentified photographer. Civil War Photo Collection, Medford Historical Society and Museum, Medford, Massachusetts, MHS1948.1.0259.

Figure 5.3. Skirmish drill, camp of the 40th Massachusetts Infantry at Mainer's Hill, Virginia, 1862–1863.[30]

30 Unidentified photographer. Civil War Photo Collection, Medford Historical Society and Museum, Medford, Massachusetts, MHS1948.1.0850.

	Livestock	Valuation
1898	2 horses	$ 75
	6 cows & 1 heifer	$190
	Unspecified number of fowl	$ 35
1909	2 horses	$125
	6 cows & 2 heifers	$250
	Unspecified number of fowl	$ 50
1911 & 1912	2 horses	$150
	8 cows	$275
	50 fowl	$ 25
1913	2 horses	$300
	9 cows	$300
	100 hens	$ 50
1914	1 horse	$150
	7 cows	$350
	1 yearling	$ 25
	40 fowl	$ 25
1915	1 horse	$150
	1 cow	$ 50
	100 fowl	$ 50
1916	2 horses	$300
	1 cow	$ 50
	45 fowl	$ 25
1919	1 horse	$ 50

Figure 5.4. Livestock owned by Charles W. Bixby per town assessments of 1898–1919.[31]

31 See footnote 26 for references.

	Boarder	Relationship
1900	Annie C. George Samuel Sidney Cook	Niece Farm Hand
1901	Charles M. Bixby Samuel Sidney Cook	Son & Farm Hand Farm Hand
1905	Charles M. Bixby Harold H. Russell	Son & Farm Hand Farm Hand
1907	Charles M. Bixby	Son & Farm Hand
1909	Charles M. Bixby	Son & Farm Hand
1910	Mary J. Rogers John H. Page	Servant Farm Hand
1911	John H. Page	Farm Hand
1913	John H. Page Carl H. Page	Farm Hand Farm Hand
1914	John H. Page Carl H. Page	Farm Hand Farm Hand

Figure 5.5. Boarders of Charles W. and Emeline (Bray) Bixby. This list of boarders—both who and when they lived in the Thomas Kilham House—is likely incomplete, since town directories weren't published for each year.[32]

32 See footnote 19 for availability of directories during the period the Bixbys lived in the Thomas Kilham House. No boarders are indicated in the 1920 Federal census.

The Bixbys weren't alone while they were living in the Thomas Kilham House. Their niece lived with them briefly and a series of farm hands lived with them between 1900 and 1914. Figure 5.5 provides a summary of them—although this view is likely incomplete because the series of town directories for the period is incomplete. Information about these boarders follows.

Annie C. George was living in the house in 1900. She was the daughter of Walter A. and Hannah A. (Bray) George, was born July 26, 1883 in Primrose (Harrison), Iowa, and died on August 22, 1932 in Wenham. She married Fred S. Knowlton (1877–1961) on June 26, 1902 in Wenham. They lived on Pleasant Street and hosted Annie's aunt Emeline (Bray) Bixby after Charles W. Bixby's death.[33]

Samuel Sidney Cook—who referred to himself as Sidney so as to distinguish himself from his grandfather Samuel S. Cook (1817–1902)—was a farm hand living in the house in 1900 and 1901. Sidney was born on May 28, 1881 in Wenham and died on February 22, 1919 in Wenham. He was the illegitimate son of Sarah B. (Lord) Cook; his father is not identified in the town clerk's record of his birth, Sarah's husband John H. Cook (1848–1879) having died two years earlier. Sidney was raised in the household of his grandfather (the elder Samuel S. Cook) at current-day 38-40 Maple Street (Figure 5.6, labeled the Frances P. Daniels House, i.e., the Samuel Fiske Jr. House) and likely moved back into that house from the Thomas Kilham House about the time of his grandfather's death in 1902. He married Ella Augusta Cook on June 9, 1903 in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The daughter of Charles R. and Annie (Johnson) Cook, Ella was born on June 26, 1883 in Rockport, Massachusetts, and died on September 17, 1941 in Wenham.[34]

Harold Harrison Russell was a farm hand living in the house in 1905. The son of Herbert H. and Louisa C. (Kennedy) Russell, he was born on December 22, 1888 in Beverly, Massachusetts and died on December 18,

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33 United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Wenham, 468:2; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1933), 41; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 524:603; and Findagrave.com, memorial #68877171.

34 United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Wenham, 468:2; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1901):1103, (1905):1312; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1920):49, (1942):84; "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918" (2005), Beverly City, Draft Board 23, Draft Card C; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 322:347, 1883:221; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 536:635; and Findagrave.com, memorials #63433473, 63600684 and 63600714. In 1910 the Cooks were living at 7 Maple Street; see Appendix M.

1928 in Boxford, Massachusetts. Harold grew up on Cherry Street in Wenham. He is probably the same Harold H. Russell who was living in Peabody, Massachusetts in 1910. He married Grace Augusta Riggs on October 15, 1916 in Boxford, Massachusetts. The daughter of Frank H. and Emma L. (Morse) Riggs, Grace was born August 9, 1889 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and died after 1950.[35]

Mary Jane Rogers was born on March 23, 1892 in Byfield (Newbury), Massachusetts, the daughter of Simon O. and Hannah L. (Hardy) Rogers, and died on August 4, 1965 in Wenham. She is identified as a "servant" in the Bixby household in the 1910 census. Later that year she married the Bixbys' son Charles M. Bixby, when she was eighteen years old and he was 30. As curious as the age difference is (was it a shotgun wedding?), the town clerk's record says that it was her second marriage and that she had been divorced—but no record of her first marriage has been found. As noted above in the discussion of Charles M. Bixby, Charles and Mary Jane moved to Friend Court by 1911.[36]

John Henry Page, son of John C. and Sarah F. (Peabody) Page, was born on March 28, 1871 in Danvers, Massachusetts and died on December 28, 1938 in Beverly. He lived as a farm hand in the Thomas Kilham House from 1910 through part of 1914 (having lived in Danvers through 1909) and

35 United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Wenham, 468:2; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1905), 1316; United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Peabody, Essex County, Massachusetts, 448:12; United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts, 4:22:3; Town of Boxford, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Boxford, Together with the Report of the School Committee and the Various Town Officers for the Year Ending December 31, 1928* (Topsfield, MA: The Perkins Press, 1929), 31; United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Hamilton, Essex County, Massachusetts, 51:15; United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:43:9; United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Boxford, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:73:17, Grace A. Pickett; "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918" (2005), Georgetown City, Draft Board 2R, Draft Card C; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 385:231, 395:93; "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1916–1920," online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society (2018), 637:425; and Findagrave.com, memorial #202273818.

36 United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Wenham, 486:9; Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1911), 1309; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1911):42, (1966):54; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 594:713; "Massachusetts, U.S., Delayed and Corrected Vital Records, 1753–1900," online database, Ancestry.com, 2016, (1895):549; and Findagrave.com, memorial #68198618.

moved to Beverly in 1914. He was married twice. He married first on February 26, 1888 in Beverly Mary Lizzie Marling. She was the daughter of John W. and Rebecca (Hamilton) Marling and was born on February 12, 1865 in Danvers. Their son Harry W. Page was stillborn on April 23, 1888 in Middleton, Massachusetts, less than a month after their wedding, and was buried in Danvers. Their daughter Hazel Isabelle Page was born on July 31, 1890 in Danvers, and their son Carl Henry Page was born on September 15, 1892 in Danvers. The Page family lived in Danvers, but John and Mary divorced by 1910. John married second, on March 20, 1915 in Boston, Mary E. Frye, daughter of Manuel and Louise (Enos) Frye. Mary Frye was born in 1869 in Boston and died on December 3, 1936 in Beverly.[37]

Continued on p. 164

37 United States Census Bureau, 1870 Federal Census, Danvers, Essex County, Massachusetts, 138; United States Census Bureau, 1880 Federal Census, Danvers, Essex County, Massachusetts, 3; United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Danvers, Essex County, Massachusetts, 268:14-15; Town of Danvers, *Street List of Polls in the Town of Danvers for the Year 1908* (Danvers, MA: Danvers Mirror Press, 1908), 47 (John H. Page, 91 Wenham Street), (1909):46 (John H. Page, 91 Wenham Street); United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Wenham, 486:9; Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1913), 18 (poll tax, living on Maple Street); Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory and North Shore Map, Vol. XII, 1914* (Beverly, MA: Crowley and Lunt, 1914), 404; Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1933):580, (1937):595 (death of Mary E. (Frye) Page), (1939):602; United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Beverly, 14:26; United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Beverly, Essex County, Massachusetts, 12:10; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1939):42, (1944):154 (death of Mary (Marling) (Page) Ramsdell on September 18, 1943); "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 177:157, 232:185, 385:345, 403:245; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 5:322; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 388:221, 631:396; and Findagrave.com, memorials #69115262, 69116263 and 69116726.

In 1907 John H. Page was a farmer boarding at 91 Wenham Street in Danvers. But in 1908 he was boarding at 91 Wenham Street and "Mrs. Mary E. Page" was a housekeeper at 24 River Street. In 1909 he was still boarding at 91 Wenham Street while she was a housekeeper at 73 High Street. See Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1907):863, (1908):867, (1909):890, (1911):1313, (1913):1325 and (1915):685, 1328.

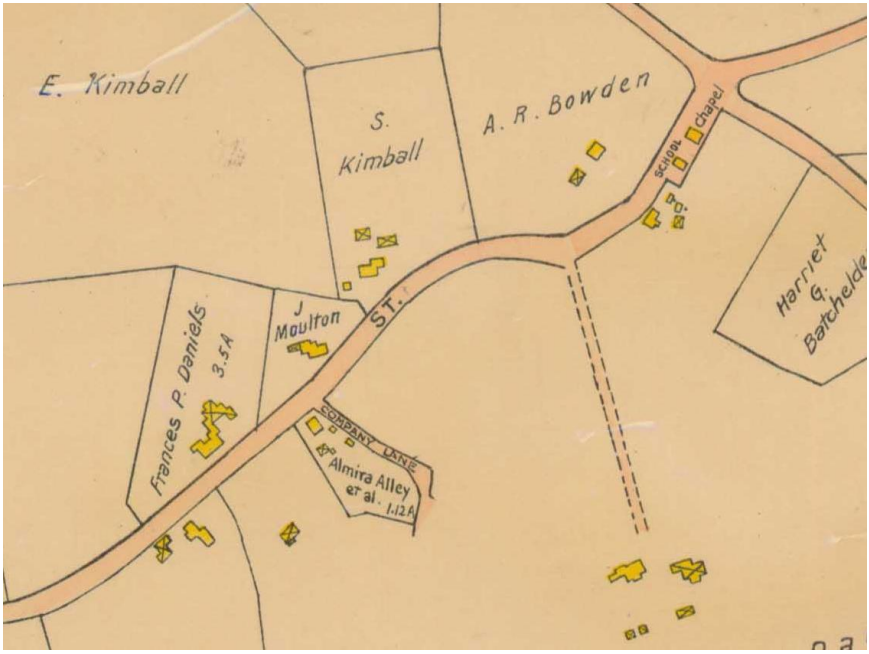
E. Kimball
S. Kimball
A. R. Bowden
School
Chapel
Harriet G. Batchelde
J Moulton
ST.
Frances P. Daniels 3.5A
COMPANY OWNED
Almira Alley et al. 1.12A

Figure 5.6. The Thomas Kilham House and neighboring houses, 1910. Agricultural buildings are infilled with an "X".[38] The Andrew R. Bowden House is still standing at 6 Maple Street. Across the street at 7 Maple Street is the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) House, which burned in 1973. The house near the lower right-hand corner is the Porter-Crowninshield House at 9 Maple Street; the house near the lower left-hand corner is the Kent-Schlehuber House at 47 Maple Street, which burned in 1969. (For more on the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) House, the Porter-Crowninshield House and the Kent-Schlehuber House, see Chapter 1.) The Almira Alley House, at the corner of Company Lane, was the most modest on Maple Street: In 1911 it was assessed at less than half the value of the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) House and one-third the value of the Thomas Kilham House. It disappeared—perhaps from a fire or perhaps torn down—between 1919 and 1922. Across the street, the house owned by Frances P. Daniels on the current-day site of 38-40 Maple Street was built by Samuel Fiske Jr. (1773–1846) by 1805. The John W. L. Moulton House on the site of 30 Maple Street was built by Stephen Cook (1822–1909), probably shortly after 1844.[39]

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38 *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (Boston: Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co., 1910), plate 34. See also Figure 1.12. Despite the seeming accuracy of the depiction of buildings, depiction of some of the Kimball farm's property lines (not visible in this image) are problematic.

39 For the Almira Alley House, see Essex County Deeds 1582:325 (Otis and Almira Alley to Nellie S. Tucker, 1899) and 2272:375 (Nellie S. Tucker to Frances P. Daniels, 1914); Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1911), 23, 27 (Frances P. Daniels, "J. H. Tiney house"), 30, Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1915), 36 (was the "[c]ottage of Alenson [*sic*] Daniels" the same building as the Almira Alley House?); Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1919), 9 (Frances P. Daniels, "Tucker house"); Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1922), 12 (Frances P. Daniels, no Tucker house assessed); and Findagrave.com, memorials #222439304, 222440535 and 222440581. Nellie S. Tucker (b.1869) was the daughter of Otis P. (1837–1911) and Almira (Cook) Alley (1842–1920), who were living in the house while she owned it; did Frances Daniels tear down the house (which might have been an eyesore) once Almira had died? For the houses previously at 30 and 38-40 Maple Street, see footnote 64 in Chapter 4 and see Figure 4.53.

Carl Henry Page joined his father in the Thomas Kilham House by 1913, living there that year and in 1914 working as a farm hand. He married Edith Eaton Small on August 31, 1913 in Wenham. The daughter of John C. and Mary J. (Bray) Small, she was born on April 14, 1895 in Deer Isle, Maine. Carl and Mary moved to Beverly by 1915. They later moved back to Wenham and were living on Cherry Street by 1918, at 7 Maple Street by 1921, and back to Cherry Street by 1927. Carl died on June 5, 1939 in Wenham. Edith died on July 12, 1956 in Beverly.[40]

40 Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1913):1325, (1915):1328; Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1913), 18 (poll tax, living on Maple Street); Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1914):46, (1940):44, (1957):102; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 421:331; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 618:404, 707; and Findagrave.com, memorials #63399625 and 635-16378.

The Pages were living on Cherry Street in 1918–1920 per Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *Hamilton … Directory* (1918), 142; Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1919), 17; and United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Wenham, 293:10.

They were living at 7 Maple Street in 1921–1925 per Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *Hamilton … Directory* (1921), 53; Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1922):5, (1925):5; Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1923):825, (1925):855; and Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Gloucester Suburban Directory* (1924), 403. They had moved to Cherry Street by 1927 per Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1927), 894.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The Gravel Pit, 1900–*ca.*1947

There's a lot of gravel beneath Wenham, with a large glacial deposit of it between Maple and Burley Streets (Figure 5.12). In 1900 the town of Wenham bought a strip of this land—just 15½ feet wide, but 480 feet long—from the estate of George W. Peabody, located where the front yards are today at 57-63 Maple Street. The town used gravel from this pit for road work and sold it in 1930.

The owners of the McCarthy Brothers Construction Company of Peabody, Massachusetts expanded the operation in 1936, buying what had been the town's gravel pit as well as a 10-acre abutting lot. They operated the site as the Wenham Sand & Gravel Company, leveling what was at the time an above-ground gravel bank. When the adjacent Beverly Airport was expanded during World War II much of the gravel was used for that project. When the war ended, the gravel pit was the site of a celebratory bonfire (see pages 200-201).

The Wenham Sand & Gravel Company was in operation as late as 1947. The property was graded and subdivided for housing between 1955 and 1958.[41]

41 Essex County Deeds 1610:39 (George W. Peabody, executor, to Town of Wenham, 1900), 2839:14 (Town of Wenham to Myron A. Perkins, 1930), 2839:15 (Myron A. Perkins to Alma F. Schlehuber, 1930), 2841:594 (Alma F. Schlehuber to Luman R. and Marie J. Strong, 1930), 3374:212 (Marie J. Strong to Charles J. and Calvin T. McCarthy, 1936), 3374:213 (Charles J. McCarthy *et al.* to John Iafolla, 1944), 4204:444 (Edward J. Ziegler, executor, *et al.* to Roger B. and Ruth C. Haszard, 1955), 4462:167 (Roger B. and Ruth C. Haszard to Richard L. and Barbara M. Gustafson, 1958), 4682:498 (Roger B. and Ruth C. Haszard to James E. and Ruth E. Chase, 1960), and 5103:514 (Roger B. and Ruth C. Haszard to Lawrence W. and Carol L. Harding, 1963). Essex County Deeds Plan 73:52 ("Plan of Maple Street in the Town of Wenham As Relocated," 1941), sheets 2 and 3, and 87:22 ("Plan of Land Located in Wenham, Mass. Owned by Roger B. Haszard," 1955). Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1923):60, (1944):159, (1945):110, (1947):106; Crowley and Lunt, *The Bev-*

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Fire Cisterns, 1921 & 1924

In 1921—well before Wenham would build a townwide water-delivery system—the town built a fire cistern near the West Wenham Schoolhouse at the corner of Maple Street and Topsfield Road. In 1924 the town built another cistern near the intersection of Burley Street and Maple Street (presumably on the town-owned Gravel Pit lot). They were the thirteenth and the fifteenth cisterns, respectively, to be placed at strategic locations around town.

The town's annual reports don't describe either of these cisterns other than to say that the one near the schoolhouse was to hold 10,000 gallons of water. Based on the fire chief's 1922 description of a cistern near the corner of Grapevine Road and Hull Street, we can hypothesize that the Maple Street cisterns were underground, made of concrete, and approximately 8 feet by 10 feet by 20 feet large.[42]

erly City Directory (1947), 922, 943; and Bob Hicks, "Growing Up in Wenham in WWII: Recollections of a Bygone Era," HWLibrary.org/growing-up-in-wenham-in-wwii/ (Wenham, MA: Bob Hicks, 2018), "The US Navy Lands in Wenham" and "VJ Day & Our Towering Inferno." See also John Henry Sears, *The Physical Geography, Geology, Mineralogy and Paleontology of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Salem, MA: The Essex Institute, 1905), 284.

42 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1919):55, 59, (1920):54, (1921):61, 64, (1922):35-36, 38, 54, 58, 62, (1923):61, (1924):52, 64, 68, (1925):20-21, 37, 40, 49, 50-51. The town's annual report doesn't specify the location of the Burley Street cistern.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Closing of the West Wenham Schoolhouse, 1923

The West Wenham Schoolhouse was built in 1752 at the current-day corner of Maple Street and Topsfield Road and was enlarged in 1890. It was closed at the end of 1923's academic year as part of a larger plan to consolidate Wenham's schools—having just sixteen students (in Grades 1–5) in 1921 and fifteen students in 1922. In 1924 the building was moved to the knoll behind Town Hall, where it was converted to a town garage. The Superintendent wrote at the time: "The pupils are now transported to the Center School, where they are having the many school advantages which could not be provided at a reasonable cost previously."

The town sold the building in 1979 to two veterinarians who planned to open a clinic there, and the town's Highway Department moved its operation to the Iron Rail Property in East Wenham.[43]

43 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1891):4, (1922):8, (1923):6, (1924):12; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1924):63, 67, (1925):35, 59; Adeline P. Cole, *Notes on Wenham History* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1943), 78-79, 132; Town of Wenham, *Annual Reports* (1977):47-48; (1978):33, 35, 55, (1979):42, 68; and Wenham Historical Association & Museum, *Wenham in Pictures and Prose* (Wenham, MA: Wenham Historical Association & Museum, 1992), 59-60.

Per Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1925):59, the conversion of the schoolhouse to a town garage entailed the grading of a dump that had been behind Town Hall and the construction of a parking lot large enough to accommodate about twenty-five cars. For photographs of the building while it was being used as the town garage, see Town of Wenham, *Annual Reports* (1977):47 and (1978):55. See also Volume 2, page 123.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The Beverly Airport's Construction (1928) & Expansion (1941–1944)

The Beverly Aero Club built the Beverly Airport in 1928, a reflection of the nationwide enthusiam for aviation following Lindbergh's solo transatlantic flight the year before. Its first runway was a 1450-foot strip of sod, 500 feet wide.

> My parents and I first visited [the airport] in 1937, when I was only four years of age. The airport seemed so different from any place I had visited before, being very rural with fields cleared for a grass runway, a hangar with a windsock and a light beacon. The aircraft were made up of Piper Cubs, bi-planes, and other types, parked on the field or landing and taking off at close range.[44]

The country hardened its defenses during 1939 through 1941 as the threat of war increased. In this context, construction of a longer, paved runway was begun in 1941—resulting in the largest paved strip in New England at the time.[45] A second runway was completed in 1942, and a third in 1944. The U. S. Government took control of the airport in 1942, and the Navy used it during World War II to train flyers to land on aircraft carriers.[46]

> The following incident was recounted by the late Beverly Historical Society member Robert Perron who was a scientist at the United Shoe Machinery Corporation [Beverly] during World War II. During the war, looking down from his third floor window at the "Shoe" plant, Mr. Perron observed U. S. Navy fighters, probably Hellcats, flying low, one by one, in a northerly direction over the Boston and Maine railroad tracks! They were probably simulating a strafing attack on a train.[47]

44 Paul Larcom, *A History of Beverly Airport* (no publisher: 2013), 1. See also Appendix N.
45 *Ibid.*, 8.
46 See also Appendix N.
47 Larcom (2013), 11.

THE CLARK FAMILY, TENANTS FROM *CA.*1927 TO 1940

Sherman R. Clark (1879–1951) and his wife **Mary (1883–1964)** were living in the house as early as 1927 and through 1940.[48] Their children **Alfred Warren Cutler (1905–1979)**, **Harold H. Cutler (1907–1987)**, **Elizabeth M. Cutler (1909–1981)** and **Vernon S. Clark (1915–2006)** and daughter-in-law **Alice (Smith) Cutler (1909–1930)** also lived in the Thomas Kilham House at various points during this period. Sherman Roscoe Clark, son of Augustus W. and Fannie M. (Sherman) Clark, was born on July 17, 1879 in Corinth, Vermont and died on January 28, 1951 in Beverly, Massachusetts. He married twice. His first marriage, on October 8, 1902 in Boston, was to Katherine Elizabeth Pearson. She was the daughter of Thomas and Matilda (Thompson) Pearson, was born on February 27, 1878 in Bolton, Vermont, and died on June 18, 1907 in Richmond, Vermont. His second marriage, on August 19, 1918 in Boston—three years *after* the birth of their son Vernon—was to Mary H. (Landry) Cutler. She was the daughter of Dominick and Ethel

48 Sherman and Mary Clark were living on Cherry Street in 1920; see United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Wenham, 293:8. They were living in Haverhill, Massachusetts in 1921; see Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *Hamilton … Directory* (1921), 111. They were back in Wenham by 1925 living on Maple Street but in a house other than the Thomas Kilham House; see Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1926):32 (Elizabeth Cutler), (1927):14 (Vernon Clark) and Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Danvers, Middleton and Topsfield, Massachusetts, Directory, 1926* (Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1926), 295. The Clarks do not appear in the Wenham section of the 1924 edition of Henry M. Meek Publishing Company's *The Gloucester Suburban Directory*.

For residence in the Thomas Kilham House, see Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1927):875, 882, (1930):907, 914, (1932):925, 903, (1934):921, 925, (1936):921, 927; Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1928):3, 13, (1931):3, 11, (1934):3, 13, (1937):3, 13; and United State Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 283:7 (and see Appendix M). The Clarks had moved to another house further west on Maple Street by the time of the 1940 census; see Appendix M as well as Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1940), 3, 9 and Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1940), 926. The *Beverly City Directory* for 1938 may have included Wenham, but further research is needed to locate a copy; no directory for Wenham seems to have been published for 1939.

Figure 5.7. Mary H. (Landry) (Cutler) Clark (1883–1964).[49]

49 Unidentified photographer. Courtesy of Penny Watson, "Watson Family Tree," Ancestry.com.

(Martell) Landry, was born on January 18, 1883 in West Arichat, Nova Scotia and died on May 17, 1964 in Lincoln, Massachusetts.[50]

Sherman and Mary (Landry) Cutler had one child together:

1. Vernon S. Clark was born on February 21, 1915 in Boston, Massachusetts and died on July 30, 2006 in Concord, New Hampshire. He married Velma M. Hitchcock on December 9, 1945 in Wenham. She was the daughter of William S. and Annie Mary (Clark) Hitchcock, was born on January 18, 1915 in Fort Fairfield, Maine, and died on March 9, 2014 in Concord, New Hampshire.[51] Vernon attended Beverly High School (as was the case with other Wenham students at the time) and was a member of the Northeastern University Class of 1936. He was living in the Thomas Kilham House probably as early as 1927 and (except for the time when he was at college) as late as 1937.[52]

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50 United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Danvers, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:79:4; Town of Danvers, *Death Returns, 1951, Danvers, Mass.*, #45 (death certificate, Sherman R. Clark); obituary, "Sherman R. Clark," *Burlington Free Press* [Burlington, VT], January 29, 1951, 2; "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918" (2005), Roxbury City, Draft Board 13, Draft Card C; "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," online database, Ancestry.com, 2010, Massachusetts, U675; "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," online database, Ancestry.com, 2011, Lincoln, Deaths, 1876–1999, 1964:94; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 1915:Boston, 138-139; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 527:221; "Vermont, U.S., Vital Records, 1720–1908," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 1871 and Later, P733 (Sherwin [*sic*] Clarke) and P441 (Katherine Elizabeth Clark); "Massachusetts State Vital Records, 1841–1920," online database, FamilySearch.org, 2:75 (1918 marriage of Clark and Cutler); and Findagrave.com, memorials #138497893, 138497897 and 138497902.

51 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1946), 74; "U.S., Veterans' Gravesites, ca.1775–2019," online database, Ancestry.com, 2006; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947," online database, Ancestry.com, 2011, Massachusetts, 1501; obituary, "Clark, Vern," *Boston Globe*, August 2, 2006, B6; "Maine, U.S., Birth Records, 1715–1922," online database, Ancestry.com, 2010, Aroostook County, 1915; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 1915:Boston, 138-139; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014," online database, Ancestry.com, 2014, #016098015; obituary, "Velma M. Clark," *Lincoln Journal* [Lincoln, MA], March 11, 2014; and Findagrave.com, memorials #72707773 and 127749516.

52 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1932):930, (1934):926, (1936):927; and Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1937), 3. After graduating from college he was a civil engineer with surveyor Thomas A. Appleton of Salem. Vernon's father and stepmother had moved to another house further west on Maple Street by the time of the 1940 census, and he joined them; see R. L. Polk, *Polk's Salem City Directory, 1939* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1939), 40 (address

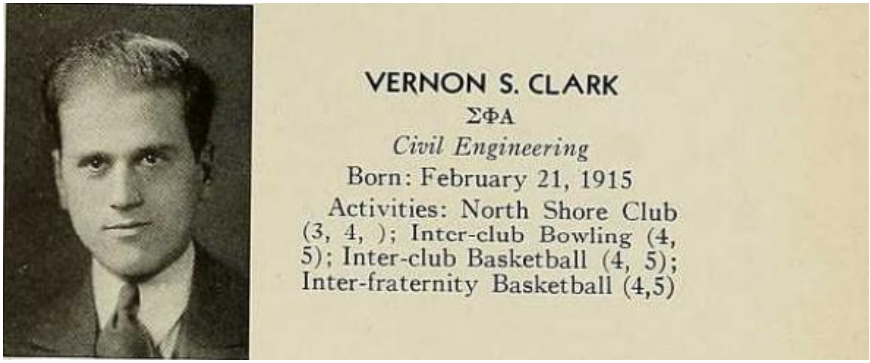
VERNON S. CLARK
ΣΦΑ
Civil Engineering
Born: February 21, 1915
Activities: North Shore Club (3, 4,); Inter-club Bowling (4, 5); Inter-club Basketball (4, 5); Inter-fraternity Basketball (4,5)

Figure 5.8. Vernon S. Clark, Northeastern University Class of 1936 yearbook.[53]

on Maple Street not provided); Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1940), 931; and Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1940), 9.

53 Northeastern University, *The Cauldron, Vol. 15* (Boston: 1936).

Mary Landry had been married to Hiram Daniel Cutler, whom she married on August 5, 1902 in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Hiram, the son of Thomas C. and Elizabeth (Fitzsimmons) Cutler, was born on October 28, 1878 in Burlington, Vermont and died on January 11, 1913 in Richmond, Vermont.[54] They had four children together, three of whom lived with the Clarks in the Thomas Kilham House.

Children:

1. Thomas Chester Cutler—who sometimes as an adult referred to himself as Chester—was born on May 2, 1903 in Brighton, Massachusetts and died on April 2, 1975 in Danvers, Massachusetts. He was married twice. He married first Stella Maud [*sic*] Metcalf on January 24, 1925 in Westminster, Vermont. She was the daughter of Harry L. and Lillian (Stoddard) Metcalf, was born on September 29, 1906 in Westminster, and died on January 14, 1997 in Windsor, Vermont. They were divorced on July 21, 1930 in Windham County, Vermont. He married second Erma Eva Guyette on June 26, 1933 in Cambridge, New York. She was the daughter of George L. and Maude B. (Ranney) Guyette, was born on June 10, 1912 in Lyndon, Vermont, and died on January 9, 1972 in Winchester, Massachusetts. No evidence has been found to indicate that Chester lived in the Thomas Kilham House.[55]

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54 Nahum S. Cutler, *A Cutler Memorial and Genealogical History* (Greenfield, MA: E. A. Hall & Co., 1899), 290; United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Richmond, Chittenden County, Vermont, 86:11-12; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 524: 380; "Vermont, U.S., Death Records, 1909–2008," online database, Ancestry.com, 2010, Chittenden County, 1913; "Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1920," online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2019, St. Ann (Gloucester) Marriages, 1872-1907, 214; and Findagrave.com, memorial #202-005773.

55 United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Rockingham, Windham County, Vermont, 122:11; *Ibid*., Westminster, Windham County, 128:3; "Vermont, U.S., Divorce Index, 1925–2003," online database, Ancestry.com, 2005, 1925–1942; "Vermont, U.S., Birth Records, 1909–2008," online database, Ancestry.com, 2010, Caledonia County, 1912; "Vermont, U.S., Marriage Records, 1909–2008," online database, Ancestry.com, 2010, Windham County, 1925; "Vermont, U.S., Vital Records, 1720–1908", 2013, 1871 and Later, P1413; "New York State, Marriage Index, 1881–1967," online database, Ancestry.com, 2017, 1933 Marriages; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1970–2003," online database, Ancestry.com, 2005, #003041; "Vermont, U.S., Death Records, 1909–2008" (2010), certificate 97-000326; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011) Massachusetts, T905; and Findagrave.com, memorials #21958927, 236444788 and 236444829. Chester was living in Danvers in 1936 and

2. Alfred Warren Cutler—who sometimes as an adult referred to himself as Warren—was born on January 18, 1905 in Watertown, Massachusetts and died on April 19, 1979 in Simi Valley, California. He was married twice. He married first Alice Margaret Smith on August 4, 1929 in Wenham. She was the daughter of Francis E. and Mary (Babiaux) Smith, was born on May 2, 1909 in Lynn, Massachusetts, and died on June 28, 1930 in Beverly, Massachusetts. He married second Frances E. Card on September 4, 1937 in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of Frank E. and Mary A. (Daveaux) Smith, was born on June 4, 1905 in Montreal, Quebec, and died on June 6, 1985 in Simi Valley, California.[56] Warren was living in the Thomas Kilham House at least by 1928 and through early 1930. He and his first wife moved to Lynn by the time of her death in June 1930, but Warren was back in the Thomas Kilham House by 1931 and lived there as late as 1936. He was working for the Topsfield Motor Company when living in Wenham in 1930, and for General Electric when he moved to Lynn.[57]

1937; see R. L. Polk, *Polk's Danvers City Directory, 1936* (R. L. Polk & Co., 1936), 796, (1937):628; and "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 533:677, 535:112.

56 City of Beverly, *Deaths, Vol. 12, 1924–1941*, MS, 100, City Clerk's Office, Beverly; Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Lynn Directory* (1930), 426; United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:156:1; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1930), 47; "California, U.S., Death Index, 1940–1997," online database, Ancestry.com, 2000; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 551: 689, 582:584; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Index, 1901–1955 and 1966–1970," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 51:141; and Findagave.com, memorials #73938265, 73938297 and 73938329.

57 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1928):4, (1931):4; Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1930):916, (1932):931, (1934):927, (1936):928; Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Lynn Directory* (1930), 426; and United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Lynn, 5: 156:1.

Figure 5.9. Alfred Warren Cutler (1905–1979).[58]

58 Unidentified photographer. Courtesy of Penny Watson, "Watson Family Tree," Ancestry.com.

3. Harold Herbert Cutler was born on October 25, 1907 in Brighton, Massachusetts, and died on February 14, 1987 in Marblehead, Massachusetts. He married Louise Graves Martin on April 28, 1933 in Wenham. She was the daughter of Knott V. and Celia (Titus) Graves, was born on June 27, 1911 in Marblehead, and died on November 4, 2005 in Marblehead.[59] Harry was living in the Thomas Kilham House at least as early as 1928 and through part of 1930, moving to California that year. He was back in the Thomas Kilham House by 1931 but moved to Marblehead in 1933. In 1932, while he was living in Wenham, he was working for the Topsfield Motor Company.[60]
4. Elizabeth Mildred Cutler was born on November 21, 1909 in Richmond, Vermont and died on November 23, 1981 in Hillsborough, New Hampshire. She married Charles Claude Guthrie Jr., their marriage license being issued on December 6, 1933 in Brooklyn, New York. He was the son of Charles and Maude G. (Walker) Guthrie, was born on April 16, 1907 in St. Louis, Missouri, and died on November 23, 1981 in Hillsborough.[61] Elizabeth was living in the Thomas Kilham House in 1930 and 1932 but moved to New York City about the year 1933.[62]

Sherman Clark farmed the Maple Street property that he rented from Elwell Kimball. Assessments made by the town (Figure 5.10) show that he had a focus on dairy production, increasing his herd of cows from seven to fifteen between 1928 and 1937. Former neighbor Robert B. Hicks (b.1930) recalled that the dairy barn was located in what is now the back yard of 1

59 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1934), 42; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1970–2003" (2005), #017377; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Index, 1901–1955 and 1966–1970" (2013), 42:95; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, 1095; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 569: 392, 598:679; "Massachusetts, U.S., Mason Membership Cards, 1733–1990," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, #19447; and Findagrave.com, memorials #35782008 and 35782041.

60 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1928):4, (1931):4; Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1930):916, (1932):931, (1934):927; and United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Wenham, 283:7.

61 "Vermont, U.S., Birth Records, 1909–2008" (2010), Chittenden County, 1909; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), New York (City), 2036; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #084058511 (Charles Guthrie); and "New York, New York, U.S., Marriage License Indexes, 1907–2018," online database, Ancestry.com, 2017, Brooklyn, #25298.

62 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1930):916, (1932):931.

Puritan Road. Assessments also show that by 1940, having moved out of the Thomas Kilham House and moved further west on Maple Street, he had shifted his focus from dairy to poultry and/or egg production.[63]

The Clarks were the first residents of the house to have a telephone, having one installed about the year 1931.[64]

During World War II, Vernon Clark served in the Air Transport Command stationed in India; see Appendix O. Sherman Clark was one of Wenham's "spotters," civilians who staffed observation posts nationwide searching the sky for enemy bombers (Wenham and Hamilton spotters taking shifts between 1941 and 1943 in a tower that was part of the Hamilton High School).[65]

The dairy barn was north of the house, where 1 Puritan Road's back yard is today. Former neighbor Robert B. Hicks recalled that the dairy barn burned.

63 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1928):13, (1931):11, (1934):13, (1937):13, (1940):9; and United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Wenham, 283:7.

Robert B. Hicks, interview with Robert O. Corcoran and Frederick ("Rick") S. Woodland Jr., *ca.*2002, at 29 Burley Street, Wenham. The information here about the dairy barn was inadvertently omitted from Appendix I. The dairy barn is the northernmost building shown on the Solomon Kimball Farm in Figure 5.6. Given its location, perhaps the dairy barn was the same structure as the "old barn" mentioned in Thomas Kimball Jr.'s probate file. See Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Widow's Dower (1813); and pages 306-307 in Appendix I.

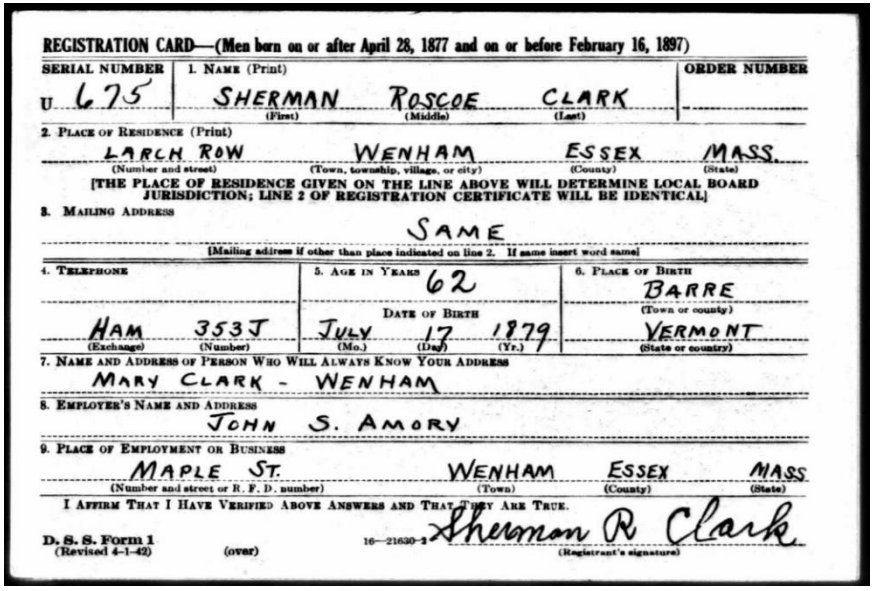
64 Some houses on Maple Street had telephones by 1923. No telephone was associated with the Thomas Kilham House in the 1923, 1925, 1927 or 1930 directories, but one is indicated, however, in the 1932 directory. See Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1923):809, (1925):837, (1927):875, (1930):907-908, (1932):925.

65 Wenham Historical Association, *Wenham in World War II* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1949), 52-53, 249.

	Livestock	Valuation
1928	1 horse 7 cows	$ 25 $420
1931	1 horse 8 cows 70 fowl	$ 50 $480 $ 75
1934	1 horse 11 cows	$ 25 $550
1937	2 horses 15 cows	$100 $900
1940	100 fowls [*sic*] 1 cow	$ 85 $ 60

Figure 5.10. Livestock owned by Sherman R. Clark per town assessments of 1928–1940.[66]

66 See footnote 63 for references.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER: U 675 | 1. NAME (Print): SHERMAN (First) ROSCOE (Middle) CLARK (Last) | ORDER NUMBER:

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print): LARCH ROW (Number and street) WENHAM (Town, township, village, or city) ESSEX (County) MASS. (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS: SAME

[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]

4. TELEPHONE: HAM (Exchange) 353J (Number)

5. AGE IN YEARS: 62

DATE OF BIRTH: JULY (Mo.) 17 (Day) 1879 (Yr.)

6. PLACE OF BIRTH: BARRE (Town or county) VERMONT (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: MARY CLARK - WENHAM

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: JOHN S. AMORY

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: MAPLE ST. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) WENHAM (Town) ESSEX (County) MASS (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

Sherman R Clark (Registrant's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42) (over) 16—21630-2

Figure 5.11. Sherman Clark's draft registration card, 1942. By this point in time (after the Clarks had moved out of the Thomas Kilham House), Clark was working for the Amorys at current-day 9 Maple Street.[67]

67 "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942" (2010), Massachusetts, U675. The card is dated April 27, 1942 at Danvers on its reverse side. It is interesting that, although Sherman reported his birthplace as Barre, Vermont, his birth was recorded in Corinth.

Figure 5.12. West Wenham, 1938. Notice how open the landscape was (with the exception of Leach's Swamp and the area that would become Mayflower Drive and part of Puritan Road). The arrow points to the Thomas Kilham House. The light-colored triangular shape along the lower left edge of this image is the gravel pit.[68]

68 Photographed in 1938 by the United States Geological Survey. Image from HistoricAerials.com, accessed March 21, 2022.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The De-Yankeefication of Maple Street, 1900–1940

For much of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteen centuries, Maple Street was a string of farms that were owned and worked by men who had inherited them or bought them from other Wenhamites. Some families took in boarders—as we've already seen with the Fairfields and Kimballs—but most residents were members of the families that owned their farms.

By the start of the twentieth century, though, things had started to change. Indeed, Solomon and Elwell Kimball weren't the only Maple Street farmowners who rented out their properties. While most of Maple Steet's residents during the period 1900 through 1940 lived in houses that their families owned, quite a few residents were renters or boarders: 41% in 1900, 49% in 1910, 37% in 1920, 44% in 1930 and 57% in 1940.

In addition to the increase in renters and boarders, this period was a time of significant change in the national origin of Maple Street's residents. De-yankeefication was underway: 9% of 1910's residents had a parent who was born outside the United States, a figure that grew to 19% by 1910, 25% by 1920, and an eye-opening 51% by 1930. At the start of the period families with foreign-born parents had origins in Canada and Ireland; as the period progressed, this list of countries expanded to include Bermuda, Poland, Greece, England and Germany.[69]

This photograph shows that the driveway wrapped around the house, with one entrance next to the stone wall between 26 and 30 Maple Street and a second entrance somewhat to the west of the current driveway entrance at the corner of Puritan Road. See also Figure I.1 in Appendix I.

69 United States Census Bureau, 1900–1940 Federal censuses. The 1940 census did not capture the national origin of residents' parents.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Summer Residents & Members of the Social Register, 1899–*ca.*1949

Even as de-yankeefication was underway, so also was a rural form of gentrification: West Wenham became the site of a number of homes that were summer residences of affluent families who lived the rest of the year elsewhere. Each of these homes required multiple members of staff, and the economic disparity between these families and other residents of the neighborhood was striking.

The Porter-Crowninshield House at 9 Maple Street was the summer residence of Gen. Benjamin and Adelaide L. Peach from 1899 to 1910, and the summer residence of Alanson and Frances P. Daniels from 1910 to 1933. In 1919 the house itself, excluding the 91 acres, three tenants' houses and other buildings that were associated with it, was assessed at $8000 or six times the $1300 assessment of the Thomas Kilham House. The 1921 town directory shows that the Danielses—whose primary residence was in Boston's Back Bay—employed at least one chauffer and four maids, not counting any of their tenants who likely worked the gardens and farm.

In 1900 John A. Burnham began piecing together an estate along Topsfield Road at Lord's Hill. The estate would grow to 149 acres; its main house was assessed in 1919 at $30,000. In 1921 his widow Mary C. Burnham (whose other residence was in Boston's Back Bay) employed at least two chauffeurs, a houseman, gardener, cook, waitress and two maids at her Lord's Hill estate. She owned the estate until her death in 1926.

The onetime William Fairfield Farm at the corner of Cherry Street and Topsfield Road was purchased in 1902 by Wolcott H. Johnson, whose primary residence was also in Boston's Back Bay. Wolcott died in 1912

and his widow Fanny owned the farm until 1925. In 1919 her Cherry Street house was assessed at an eye-opening $20,000. Interestingly, the Johnsons called their 100-acre estate "Fairfield Farm." One wonders whether that name had survived organically through the course of the nineteenth century … or whether it was an affectation created by them.

Francis L. Higginson Jr., yet another resident of Boston's Back Bay and a banker with Boston-based investment bank Lee, Higginson & Company, acquired 145 acres along Cherry Street, Cedar Street and Topsfield Road. He built a brick house at the top of Moulton Hill with the street address of 127 Cherry Street that was assessed in 1919 at $60,000, or 46 times the assessment of the Thomas Kilham House. (Higginson would eventually move to Wenham permanently, dropping his summer resident designation in the town directory of 1949.)

In 1902 Dr. John C. Phillips bought property straddling the Beverly-Wenham town line on the western shore of Wenham Lake. Unlike others discussed here, he immediately moved his fulltime residence from Boston to Wenham's Cedar Street (his widow selling it in 1940). In 1919 the main house on his estate was assessed at $55,000. In 1921 his estate's staff included at least two gamekeepers, two maids, a governess, gardener, waitress and a nurse.[70]

70 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1919), 6, 9, 18, 29; Albert W. Dennis, *Who's Who Along the North Shore of Massachusetts Bay* (Manchester, MA, 1921), 327-329; and Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *Hamilton … Directory* (1921), 39, 42, 46, 49-54, 57-58. For more on Wenham's social elite, see also Boston Suburban Book Company, *The North Shore Blue Book and Social Register, 1915* (Boston: Boston Suburban Book Co., 1915), 88-94; A. E. Foss Company, *The North Shore Blue Book and Social Register, 1917* (Boston: Boston Suburban Book Co., 1917), 85-90; and other editions of the Dennis *Who's Who Along the North Shore* series. For Higginson's permanent move to Wenham, compare Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1947), 918 with *ibid.* (1949), 934. For the Porter-Crowninshield House, Fairfield Farm and Moulton Farm (centerpiece of the Higginson estate), see also Chapter 1.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Bromley's Ice Cream Parlor, 1940

In 1939 George O. (1890–1956) and Loreen C. (Rausch) Bromley (1891–1975) bought the house at 6 Maple Street, their lot having frontage along Maple Street and Topsfield Road. By the next year they opened Bromley's Ice Cream Parlor at the Maple Street-Topsfield Road intersection (Figure 5.14). It was in business as late as 1956.[71]

Figure 5.13. Matchbook cover promoting Bromley's Ice Cream Parlor.[72]

71 Essex County Deeds 3178:292 (William G. Bromley to Loreen C. Bromley, 1939); Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1940):926, 930, 947, (1956):948; and Findagrave.com, memorials #62215116 and 62215140. The ice cream parlor does not appear in the 1958 or subsequent editions of *The Beverly City Directory*; no Wenham directory was published for 1957.

72 Collection of the author. 4 ½" × 2," outside and inside views.

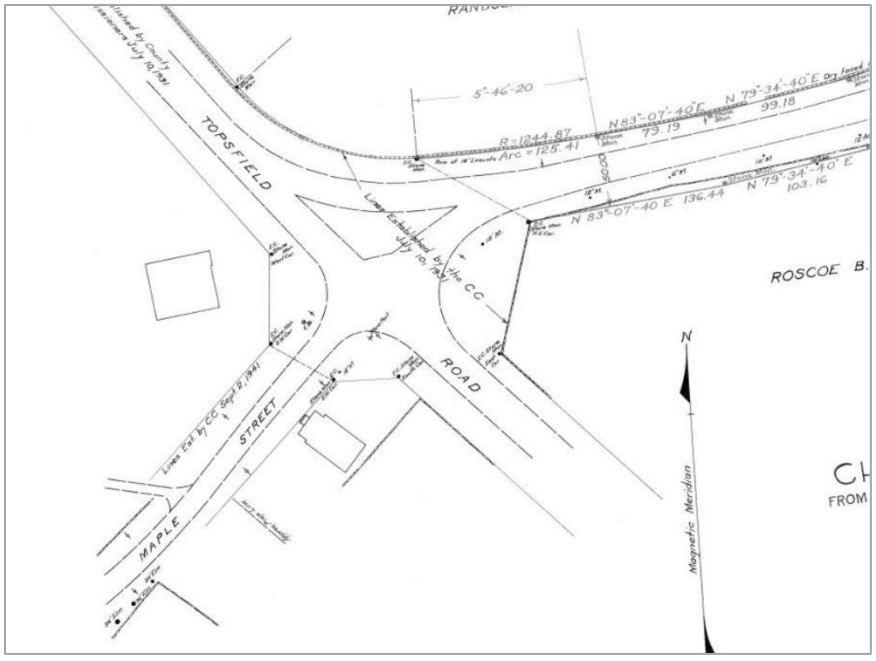


Figure 5.14. Intersection of Maple Street, Topsfield Road and Cherry Street, 1942. An outline of Bromley's Ice Cream Parlor appears to the west of the intersection. An outline of the Mapleville Chapel appears to the south.[73]

73 Essex County Deeds Plan 73:77 ("Plan of a Portion of Cherry Street from Topsfield Road to the 1934 Relocation in the Town of Wenham as Relocated," 1942), sheet 1. An outline of the ice cream parlor also appears on Essex County Deeds Plan 79:50 ("Subdivision Plan of Land Belonging to Loreen C. Bromley, Wenham, Mass.," 1950) and 1957:140 ("Plan of Land Belonging to Loreen C. Bromley, Wenham, Mass.," 1957).

THE THAYER FAMILY, TENANTS FROM 1940 TO 1942

Ernie Thayer (1881–1964) and his wife **Lillian (1884–1968)** lived in the Thomas Kimball House in 1940 and 1941. Their son **Ernie Jr. (1914–1987)** and daughter-in-law **Ruth (1914–2005)** lived in the house with them during that time, and also in 1942 after Ernie Sr. and Lillian had moved out.[74] Ernest Wilson Thayer, son of Walter H. and Mary D. (Stowell) Thayer, was born on July 5, 1881 in Woburn, Massachusetts and died on April 14, 1964 in Salem, Massachusetts. He married Ida ("Lillian") M. Maguire on October 26, 1910 in Lynn, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of Edward and Jennie (Smith) Maguire, was born on July 2, 1884 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and died on May 8, 1968 in Danvers, Massachusetts.[75]

Children:

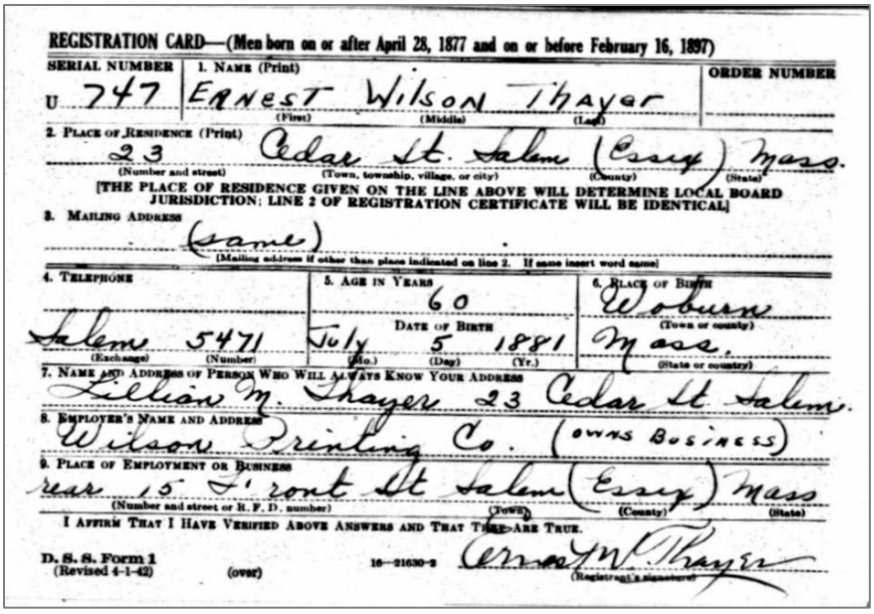
1. Walter Stowell Thayer was born on August 11, 1911 in Lynn, Massachusetts and died on October 24, 1999 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. He married Shirley Louise Crowell on September 17, 1938 in Wenham. The daughter of Frank W. and Bessie (Cripps) Crowell, Shirley was born on September 7, 1913 in Lynn, Massachusetts, and

Continued on p. 189

74 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1940):926, 944, (1942):922, 940, (1944):941; Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1940), 7, 13; and United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:403:13.

Ernie Jr. and Ruth's son Barry (b.1945) recalled in a 2013 newspaper interview that they "bought the dairy farm in Salisbury in early 1941, some months before the USA entered the war. They moved a small number of dairy cows from their previous farm in Wenham and started a producer-dealer milk business." See Carol Feingond, "Bartlett Museum Unveils Nostalgic Exhibit on Thayer's Dairy Farm," 2013, WickedLocal.com/story/archive/2013/09/13/bartlett-museum-unveils-nostalgic-exhibit/39786462007/. (The Bartlett Museum is in Amesbury, Massachusetts.) So why do the Thayers appear in the 1942 directory for *Wenham*? Perhaps they began their move to Salisbury in 1941, and the data collection for the 1942 directory overlapped the period before the move was completed. It's worth noting that the Thayers didn't actually buy their Salisbury farm until 1943; see Essex County Deeds 3345:39 (Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation to Ernest W. Jr. and Ruth F. Thayer, 1943).

75 City of Salem, *Register of Deaths*, MS, 38:132; Town of Danvers, *Deaths, 1968, Danvers, Mass.*, MS, 209; "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918" (2005), Lynn City, Draft Board 2, Draft Card T; "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942" (2010), Massachusetts, U747; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 323:250, 349: 229; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 594: 604; and Findagrave.com, memorials #27175414 and 28322025.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER: U 747 | 1. NAME (Print): Ernest (First) Wilson (Middle) Thayer (Last) | ORDER NUMBER:

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print): 23 (Number and street) Cedar St. (Town, township, village, or city) Salem (Essex) (County) Mass. (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS: (same) [Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]

4. TELEPHONE: Salem (Exchange) 5471 (Number)

5. AGE IN YEARS: 60 — DATE OF BIRTH: July (Mo.) 5 (Day) 1881 (Yr.)

6. PLACE OF BIRTH: Woburn (Town or county) Mass. (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: Lillian M. Thayer 23 Cedar St Salem

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Wilson Printing Co. (owns business)

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: rear 15 Front St Salem (Town) (Essex) (County) Mass (State)
(Number and street or R. F. D. number)

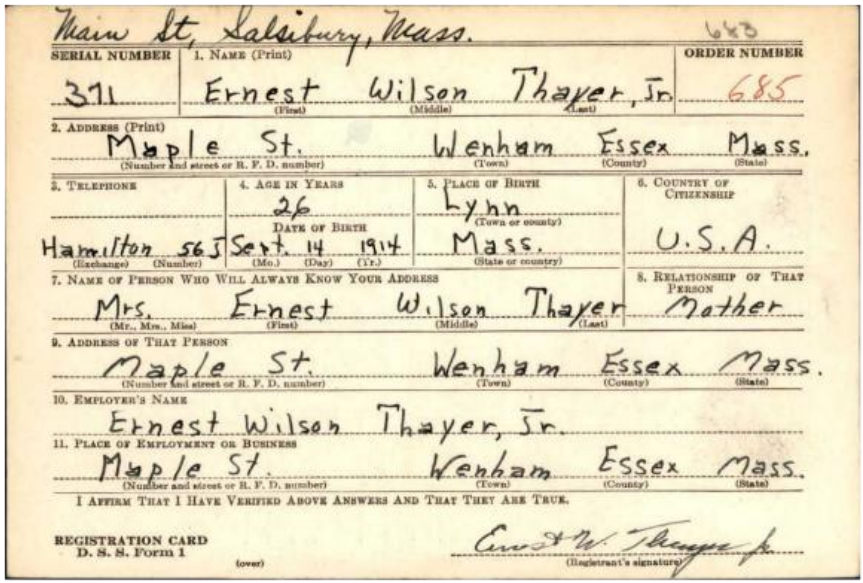
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

Ernest W. Thayer (Registrant's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42) (over) 16—21630-2

Figure 5.15. Ernest Thayer Sr.'s draft registration card, 1942.[76]

76 "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942" (2010), Massachusetts, U747. The card is dated April 27, 1942 at Salem on its reverse side.


Main St, Salisbury, Mass.

SERIAL NUMBER 371 — 1. NAME (Print): Ernest (First) Wilson (Middle) Thayer, Jr. (Last) — ORDER NUMBER 685

2. ADDRESS (Print): Maple St. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Wenham (Town) Essex (County) Mass. (State)

3. TELEPHONE: Hamilton 56 J (Exchange) (Number)

4. AGE IN YEARS: 26 — DATE OF BIRTH: Sept. 14 (Mo.) 1914 (Yr.)

5. PLACE OF BIRTH: Lynn (Town or county) Mass. (State or country)

6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: Mrs. (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Ernest (First) Wilson (Middle) Thayer (Last)

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON: Mother

9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON: Maple St. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Wenham (Town) Essex (County) Mass. (State)

10. EMPLOYER'S NAME: Ernest Wilson Thayer, Jr.

11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: Maple St. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Wenham (Town) Essex (County) Mass. (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 (over)

Ernest W. Thayer Jr. (Registrant's signature)

Figure 5.16. Ernest Thayer Jr.'s draft registration card, 1940.[77]

77 "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, 371. The card is dated October 16, 1940 at Wenham on its reverse side.

died on August 27, 1988 in Worcester, Massachusetts. No evidence has been found to indicate that Walter lived in the Thomas Kilham House.[78]

2. Ernest Wilson Thayer Jr. was born on September 14, 1914 in Lynn, Massachusetts and died on May 6, 1987 in Amesbury, Massachusetts. He married Ruth Wallace Fairweather on February 17, 1941 in Andover, Massachusetts. The daughter of James D. and Margaret (Hutcheson) Fairweather, she was born on March 20, 1914 in Andover and died on December 10, 2005 in Framingham, Massachusetts.[79]

The Thayers moved from Lynn to Wenham in 1936, although their Wenham residence prior to the Thomas Kilham House hasn't been identified. Ernie Sr. owned the Wilson Printing Company at 15 Front Street, Salem; he and Lillian moved to Salem by 1942.[80] Ernie Jr. was a dairy farmer. He added a milk room to the Maple Street property, managed a herd of twelve cows, and sold his herd's milk (Figure 5.17). Ernie Jr. and Ruth moved to Salisbury, Massachusetts in 1941, where they ran a larger dairy operation through 1963.[81]

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78 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1939), 41; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1970–2003" (2005), #049623; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 598:650, 614:650; "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007," online database, Ancestry.com, 2015, #012106516 and 026349978; and Findagrave.com, memorials #28322125 and 155257664.

79 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1942), 82; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1970–2003" (2005), #027458; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, 371; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 622:483, 659; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #015308538 and 018091080; "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #018-091080; and Findagrave.com, memorials #41787555 and 41787648.

80 Crosby Publishing Company, *Crosby's Salem, Peabody, Danvers and Marblehead Directory, 1930* (Wollaston, MA: Crosby Publishing Co., 1930), 492, 518; R. L. Polk, *Polk's Salem City Directory* (1931):301, 321, (1932):288, (1934):373, 399, (1935):375, 401, (1936):357, 383, (1937):390, 420, (1939):356, 383, (1940):362, 389, (1942):350, 375; and United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Wenham, 5:403:13. Per these directories, the Wilson Printing Company was at 24 Federal Street in 1930 and at 15 Front Street for subsequent years.

81 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1940), 13, 24; United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Wenham, 5:403:13; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1942), 75, 77, 78; Mary Stevens, "Hamilton History Detective: Two Milk Bottles, One Farm?" 2011, WickedLocal.com/story/chronicle-transcript/2011/10/12/hamilton-history-detective-two-milk/64847430007/; and Feingond (2013). Per the Valuation List, in 1940 Thayer had two horses, twelve cows, one heifer, one bull and 125 fowl.

Figure 5.17. Fragment of an Ernest Thayer Jr. milk bottle, made between 1940 and 1942. Of clear glass, it is embossed "[TH]AYER /CREAM AND MILK / WENH[AM]". Rather than selling his milk to a wholesale distributor, Thayer sold his milk directly to the public.[82]

82 Fragment found by Frederick ("Rick") S. Woodland Jr. on March 21, 2021 while digging in his garden along the 26 Maple Street/1 Puritan Road property line, adjacent to the former site of the North Kimball Barn (see Figure I.2 in Appendix I).

Figure 5.18. Farming-related objects found at 1 Puritan Road: Three horseshoes, a bit, a buckle, three fastening devices, and a glass bottle stopper.[83]

The Thayers had a boarder living with them in 1942: An **Edwin Wentworth**. He was a farm hand working for them. Unfortunately, though, no other information has been found about Edwin, including when or where he was born.[84]

83 Items found by members of the Harer family during the summer of 2021. The Harers' house was built near the sites of the North Kimball Barn and the dairy barn; see Figure I.2 in Appendix I and Figure 5.6. Over the years, former owner of 1 Puritan Road Ed Ernst (1919–2020, who with his wife Shirley built the house) dug up many pieces of farm debris in their back yard and in his garden along the 26 Maple Street/1 Puritan Road property line.

84 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1942), 941.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The Widening and Straightening of Maple Street, 1942–1943

In 1941 the boundaries of Maple Street were modified so as to widen and straighten it somewhat. It was still a dirt road—albeit periodically treated with tar and sand (as was the common practice at the time) to help reduce the amount of dust that was stirred up by traffic.

The town's surveyor of highways wrote in 1941:

> A street of many curves, some bad and some not so bad, [Maple Street] was laid out, surveyed and bounded by stones. Mr. and Mrs. John S. Amory [owners of 9 Maple Street] gave the land for the purpose of changing the bad curve in front of their residence and we are relaying the wall on the new line. … On the opposite side of this street, Mr. and Mrs. George O. Bromley [owners of 6 Maple Street] gave the land for the purpose of widening from the corner of Topsfield Road for about 400 feet, which work will be commenced in 1942.

The work continued into 1943 when "the road was finished from the Kimball estate [*i.e.*, 26 Maple Street] to the top of the hill in front of the Bromley estate [*i.e.*, 6 Maple Street], where [the highway department] had to stop on account of being unable to procure dynamite."

Maple Street wasn't paved with asphalt until 1962. It wasn't paved with bituminous concrete until 1972–1975, the last road in town at the time to receive such treatment.[85]

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85 Essex County Deeds 3273:532 (Taking of Easement, 1941) and Plan 73:52 ("Plan of Maple Street in the Town of Wenham as Relocated," 1941); Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1942), 61-62, (1943):105, 159, (1945):110, (1963):51; and Town of Wenham, *Annual Reports* (1972):39, 50, 59, 72, (1973):26, 32, 44, 79, 82, (1974):56, 78, 94; (1975):34, 47-49. See also Essex County Deeds 2409:176 (County Commissioners Decree, 1919).

The reason for the 6-9 Maple Street curve is a mystery. Was there an outcropping of bedrock at one time that prompted the curve? Or, perhaps, was a curve laid out to reflect the exchange of land that William Fairfield and Daniel Fiske made two centuries earlier? See Essex

THE NELSON FAMILY, TENANTS FROM 1942 TO 1950

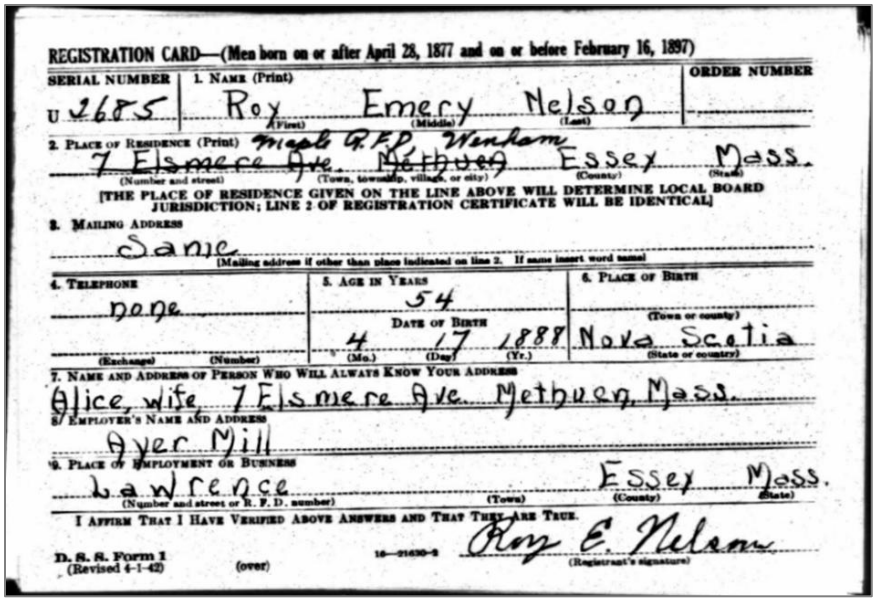
Roy E. Nelson (1888–1950), his wife **Alice (*ca.*1899–after 1960)** and their son **Stanley (1924–1984)** moved from Methuen, Massachusetts to the Thomas Kilham House in the summer of 1942 (Figures 5.19 and 5.21), and lived in the house through 1950. Daughter-in-law **Barbara (1927–1990)** joined them in 1949 when she and Stanley were married.[86] Roy Emery Nelson was born on April 17, 1888 in Scotch Village, Nova Scotia, the son of Edward and Aseneth R. (Hicks) Nelson, and died on November 28, 1950 in Danvers, Massachusetts. He married Alice Wood on July 31, 1909 in North Andover, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of Matthew and Eliza (Sidebottom) Wood, was born about 1899 in England, and died after 1960.[87] The Nelsons had five children, only the youngest of whom lived with them in the Thomas Kilham House.

In her 1943 *Notes on Wenham History*, Adeline Cole attempted to list all the houses in town that had been built during the seventeenth century—but she neglected to include the Thomas Kilham House. Perhaps the fact that the house was rented out made its history easier to overlook.

County Deeds 79:157 (exchange of land between William Fairfield and Daniel Fiske, 1737); and see the discussion of the Southwest Lot of the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm in Appendix B (Volume 1, page 149).

86 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1943):12, (1946):6, 12, (1949), 7, 13; Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1944):922, 936, (1947):922, 938, (1949):939, 955, (1951):963; Town of Wenham, *Street List: 1950–1973* (no publisher), Town Clerk's Office, Wenham, *Street List of Persons 20 Years of Age and Over Residing in Wenham on January 1, 1950*, 10; United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:475:2; "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942" (2010), Massachusetts, U2685; and "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, N625.

87 Town of Danvers, *Death Returns, 1950, Danvers, Mass*., MS, 378 (death certificate, Roy E. Nelson Sr.); R. L. Polk, *Polk's Greater Lawrence City Directory, 1955* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1955), 857 (Alice W. Nelson, Andover, Massachusetts), (1960):1200 (Alice W. Nelson, Methuen, Massachusetts); "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918" (2005), Georgetown City, Draft Board 21, Draft Card N; "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942" (2010), Massachusetts, U2685; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 586:627; and "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #028183324.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U 2685 | 1. NAME (Print) Roy (First) Emery (Middle) Nelson (Last) | ORDER NUMBER

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Maple St. R.F.D. Windham
7 Elsmere Ave. Methuen (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) Essex (County) Mass. (State)
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same
[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]

4. TELEPHONE none (Exchange) (Number)

5. AGE IN YEARS 54
DATE OF BIRTH 4 (Mo.) 17 (Day) 1888 (Yr.)

6. PLACE OF BIRTH (Town or county) Nova Scotia (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
Alice, wife 7 Elsmere Ave. Methuen, Mass.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
Ayer Mill

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS
Lawrence (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) Essex (County) Mass. (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.
Roy E. Nelson (Registrant's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42) (over) 16—21630-2

Figure 5.19. Roy E. Nelson's draft registration card, 1942. Although Nelson registered at Methuen, Massachusetts, notice that his residence was changed to Maple Street, which allows us to date the Nelsons' move to that year.[88]

88 "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942" (2010), Massachusetts, U2685. On its reverse side the card is dated April 26, 1942 at Methuen, and includes the detail that Nelson had no thumb on his left hand.

Figure 5.20. Alice (Wood) Nelson, *ca.*1905.[89]

89 Unidentified photographer. Courtesy of Jeff Barraclough, "Barraclough/Bennett Family Tree," Ancestry.com.

Children:

1. Mark Nelson born on December 5, 1909 in North Andover, Massachusetts and died the next day in North Andover.[90]
2. John Nelson was also born on December 5, 1909 in North Andover and also died the next day in North Andover.[91]
3. Lillian E. Nelson was born about 1911, probably in North Andover, and died by 1930.[92]
4. Rev. Roy Emery Nelson Jr. was born on December 7, 1916 in North Andover and died on October 14, 1995 in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. He married Eunice Virginia Cole, daughter of Albert E. and Etta (Merriam) Cole, on November 21, 1939 in Revere, Massachusetts. She was born on May 10, 1920 in Cambridge, Massachusetts and died on July 14, 2011 in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Roy Jr. and Eunice were living in Georgetown, Massachusetts by 1940 and Marblehead, Massachusetts by 1942. No evidence has been found to indicate that they lived in the Thomas Kilham House.[93]
5. Stanley Wood Nelson was born on June 30, 1924 in Methuen and died on November 25, 1984 in Lowell, Massachusetts. He married Barbara M. Anthony on June 3, 1949 in Danvers, Massachusetts, their marriage performed by his brother Roy Jr. She was the daughter of Leonard S. and Mildred M. (Blake) Anthony, was born on March 26, 1927 in Danvers, and died on February 16, 1990 in Newburyport,

90 "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 582:655; and "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915" (2013), 75:503. Mark and his twin brother were born prematurely.

91 "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 582:655; and "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Records, 1841–1915" (2013), 75:503. John and his twin brother were born prematurely.

92 United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Lawrence, Essex County, Massachusetts, 4:114:7; and United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Methuen, Essex County, Massachusetts, 203:3. No records found for her birth or death at North Andover town clerk's office. The Nelsons moved from North Andover to Lawrence in late 1911 or 1912; see W. E. Shaw, *The North Andover, Massachusetts Directory, 1912* (Boston: W. E. Shaw, 1912), 70 and Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Lawrence Directory, 1913* (Lawrence, MA: Arthur L. Cole, 1913), 535.

93 "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, 1371; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Index, 1901–1955 and 1966–1970" (2013), 61:408, 77:209; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #014164430 and 034289694; "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #034289694; and Findagrave.com, memorials #107778793 and 192005885.

Massachusetts. Stanley lived in the Thomas Kilham House with his parents, and was joined by his wife Barbara.[94]

Roy Sr. came to this country in 1891 and Alice came in 1904. In the 1910, 1920 and 1930 censuses he identified himself as a carpenter in a worsted mill, and during the years the Nelsons lived in the Thomas Kilham House he identified himself as a carpenter. Meanwhile, son Stanley farmed the Maple Street property (Figure 5.22).[95]

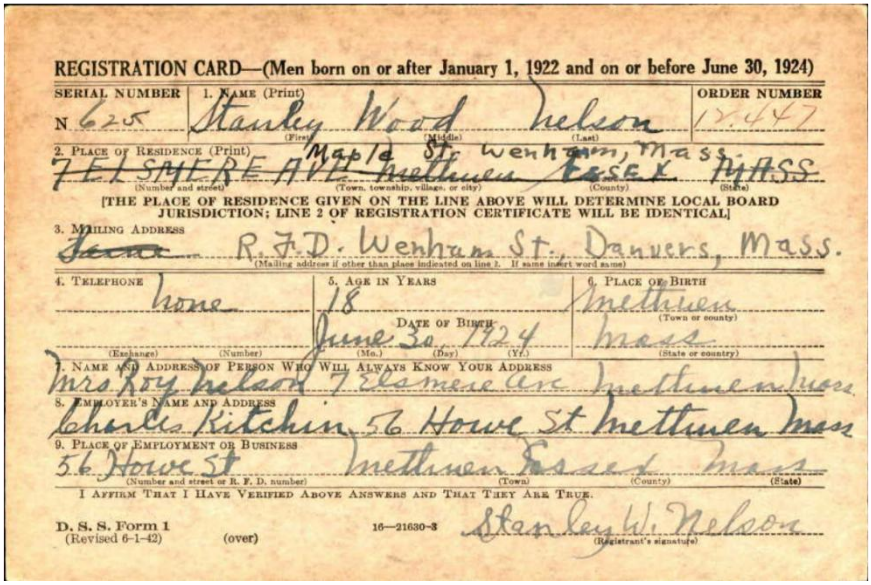
The Nelsons had a boarder living with them in 1950: A **Howard Miles**. He was born in Maine about the year 1913 and was a carpenter. Unfortunately, though, no other information has been found about him.[96]

94 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1944):936, (1947):938, (1949):955; Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1946):6, 12, (1949):7, 13; Town of Danvers, *Marriage Returns, 1948–1949*, MS, 1949:56 (marriage certificate, Stanley W. Nelson, farmer of Wenham, and Barbara M. Anthony, nurse of Danvers); Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1950), 82; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1970–2003" (2005), #018973 (Barbara M. Blazonis) and #052575 (Stanley W. Nelson); "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, N625; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Index, 1860–1870," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 82:493; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #030248393; and "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #030248393.

95 United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, North Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts, 427:20; United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, North Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts, 440:5; United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Lawrence, 4:114:7; United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Methuen, 203:3; and Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1944):936, (1947):938, (1949):955.

For their residences in Lawrence, Massachusetts, see also Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Lawrence Directory* (1919), 370, (1927):592, (1936):498, (1937):524.

96 United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Wenham, 5:475:2.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER N 625 | 1. NAME (Print) Stanley (First) Wood (Middle) Nelson (Last) | ORDER NUMBER 12447

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) ~~7 ELSMERE AVE~~ Maple St (Number and street) Wenham (Town, township, village, or city) ~~Methuen~~ Essex (County) ~~MASS~~ (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS ~~Same~~ R.F.D. Wenham St., Danvers, Mass. (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE (Exchange) None (Number)

5. AGE IN YEARS 18 DATE OF BIRTH (Mo.) June (Day) 30 (Yr.) 1924

6. PLACE OF BIRTH Methuen (Town or county) Mass (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs Roy Nelson 7 Elsmere Ave Methuen Mass

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Charles Kitchin 56 Howe St Methuen Mass

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 56 Howe St (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Methuen (Town) Essex (County) Mass (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-1-42) (over) 16—21630-3

Stanley W. Nelson (Registrant's signature)

Figure 5.21. Stanley W. Nelson's draft registration card, 1942. As with his father's registration card, Stanley's residence was changed from Methuen to Maple Street.[97]

97 "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, N625. The card is dated June 30, 1942 at Methuen on its reverse side.

	Livestock	Valuation
1943	5 cows	$ 625
	2 horses	$ 300
1946	3 horses	$ 375
	20 cows	$2500
	4 heifers	$ 300
	1 bull	$ 50
1949	3 horses	$ 275
	22 cows	$3300
	1 bull	$ 100

Figure 5.22. Livestock owned by Stanley W. Nelson per town assessments of 1943–1949. Former neighbor Robert B. Hicks (b.1930) recalled that Nelson's cows were Brown Swiss.[98]

98 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1943):12, (1946):12, (1949):13; and Robert B. Hicks, interview, *ca.*2002.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The VJ Day Bonfire, 1945

Burley Street resident Robert B. Hicks (b.1930), in his memoir of growing up in West Wenham, relates this story of the neighborhood's celebration of the Allies' victory over Japan:

> With the euphoria over the end of the War in Europe dissipating as summer arrived, there still remained the ongoing fighting with Japan, which had long demonstrated that it would fight to the last person (man, woman and child). Suddenly as August arrived it all came to an end when atomic bombs were dropped on Japan bringing on its reluctant surrender. Time to celebrate. Now back to our local scene. The town decided to not host any formal celebration but there were those (some adults as well as we thrill-seeking boys) out here in West Wenham who felt we ought to do something. A bonfire was suggested and a site chosen, the vast gravel plain at the corner of Maple and Burley Streets (opposite where Burnett's Garage now stands) where all the original gravel had been trucked away in 1943 to build the Beverly Airport for the Navy. At 15 I had no idea about who owned the lot, it didn't seem to be an issue. Prior to the war it had been a small gravel pit operated by a Peabody construction company, McCarthy Brothers, whose motto, "We Move the Earth" was displayed on its trucks with a picture of a dump truck carrying a world globe. They disappeared during the war as did the John Iafolla Company after it hauled away all the gravel, leaving only a barren dustblown plain leaving prominently displayed thereon next to Maple Street a now abandoned wooden structure as big as a three decker tenement that housed the machinery

that sifted gravel into different grades and loaded it into trucks that drove beneath its trapdoors. Uh oh! It wasn't initially in the bonfire picture, which focused on a modest tower of combustibles we had assembled nearby, topped by some old wood and fabric airplane wings collected from the airport. Someone had gotten a fire permit for this (it must have been an adult[;] we boys knew nothing about such things). The neighborhood assembled for the show and then things started happening fast. Our little bonfire flared up nicely and then a five gallon pail of home heating oil was carried across the gravel from a nearby house and several persons (adults included) sloshed it up the side of the derelict structure. A flaming broom was carried triumphantly across from the bonfire and the ugly structure, old dry wood soaked in years of grease and oil, went up like a huge torch to a hearty cheer from the assembled multitude. A Towering Inferno indeed! Soon a siren was heard and Wenham's 1938 Dodge pumper arrived. One look and the volunteer firemen parked it and sat back to enjoy the show. Then Chief Eddie Hall turned up and began circulating the crowd, questioning we [*sic*] teenage boys. None of us professed to know anything about how the fire had gotten away from our bonfire and the Chief, apparently having done his duty, also sat back to watch.[99]

99 Hicks (2018), "VJ Day & Our Towering Inferno." See also Appendix N.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood:

- Development of Meridian Road, 1949–1953
- Development of Eaton Road, 1950–1951

The Long Field abutting Topsfield Road (Figures 4.29 and 4.31) had been a part of the farm associated with the Thomas Kilham House until the 1820s or 1830s when it was gifted to Lydia (Kimball) Batchelder (1796–1878) and Clarissa (Kimball) Porter (1798–1873).[100] It remained undeveloped, until in 1949 its owner Charles J. Tersolo (1907–1972) filed a plan to subdivide the property for house lots (Figure 5.23). Delayed by the need to confirm Tersolo's title to the property, the first residents moved in during 1953.[101]

Meanwhile, Katherine C. Mulry (1915–1968) filed a plan in 1950 to subdivide her property at the corner of Topsfield Road and Cherry Street, creating the Eaton Road neighborhood. Its first residents moved in during 1951.[102]

100 For history, see footnote 38 in Chapter 1 (Volume 1).

101 Essex County Land Court Certificates 2329 (Emma Weatherbee, 1917), 2333 (B. Hammond Tracy, 1917), 3873 (Kathryn L. Tracy, 1921), 4371 (Salem Trust Company, 1923), 8137 (Emma Weatherbee, 1929), 18452 (J. Russell and Nellie R. Crosby, 1948), 18621 (W. Whitney and Jennie F. Lundgren, 1948), 19422 (Charles J. and Helen M. Tersolo, 1949); and Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1954), 13. For Charles Tersolo, see Findagrave.com, memorial #179397-743.

102 Essex County Deeds Plan 79:10 ("Plan of Land Owned by Katherine C. Mulry, Subdivider, Wenham, Mass.," 1949); and Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1952), 7-8. For Katherine Mulry, see Findagrave.com, memorial #127356792.

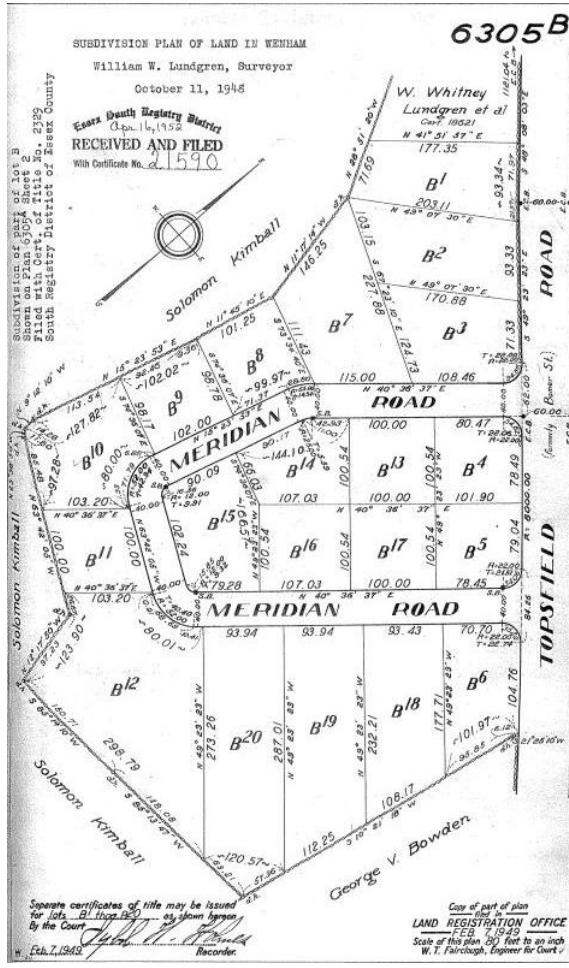

6305B
SUBDIVISION PLAN OF LAND IN WENHAM
William W. Lundgren, Surveyor
October 11, 1948
Essex South Registry District
Apr. 16, 1952
RECEIVED AND FILED
With Certificate No. 21590
W. Whitney Lundgren et al
Cert. 19521
Solomon Kimball
MERIDIAN ROAD
TOPSFIELD ROAD
Solomon Kimball
George V. Bowden
Separate certificates of title may be issued for lots B1 thru B20 as shown hereon By the Court
Feb. 7, 1949
Recorder.
Copy of part of plan filed in LAND REGISTRATION OFFICE FEB 7 1949
Scale of this plan 80 feet to an inch
W. T. Fairclough, Engineer for Court

Figure 5.23. Subdivision plan for the Meridian Road neighborhood, 1948.[103]

103 Essex County Land Court Certificate Plan 6305B ("Subdivision Plan of Land in Wenham," 1948). Drawn in 1948, the plan wasn't filed until 1949. See also Certificate Plan 6305C ("Subdivision Plan of Land in Wenham," 1950) for the lots just north of those shown here.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Town Water, 1950

In 1947 the town began the project of building a system of water mains to distribute water from purpose-dug wells off of Pleasant Street (Figure 5.24). As the water commissioners wrote in their report:

> The water system was officially opened in November 1947 and now over 100 families in Town are enjoying a more than adequate supply of clear, pure water. In many cases this is a rare treat. Not a few of these families had been "carrying" water prior to town water installation. The Fire Department was called upon to use the fire hydrants for the first time shortly after Christmas.

Up until this point homes and municipal buildings relied on well water. It's likely that in some cases in Wenham a given home had a well in its cellar with a pump (electric or manually operated) that brought the water up to the kitchen. But for other homes, carrying water" meant going outside, filling buckets with water, and bringing the water indoors. No evidence has been found of an indoor well in the Thomas Kilham House; its residents braved the outdoors. And until indoor plumbing was installed, human waste disposal was done in an outhouse.

Maple Street received its water main in 1950.[104]

104 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1948):72-84, (1951):118-120. See also Appendix I.

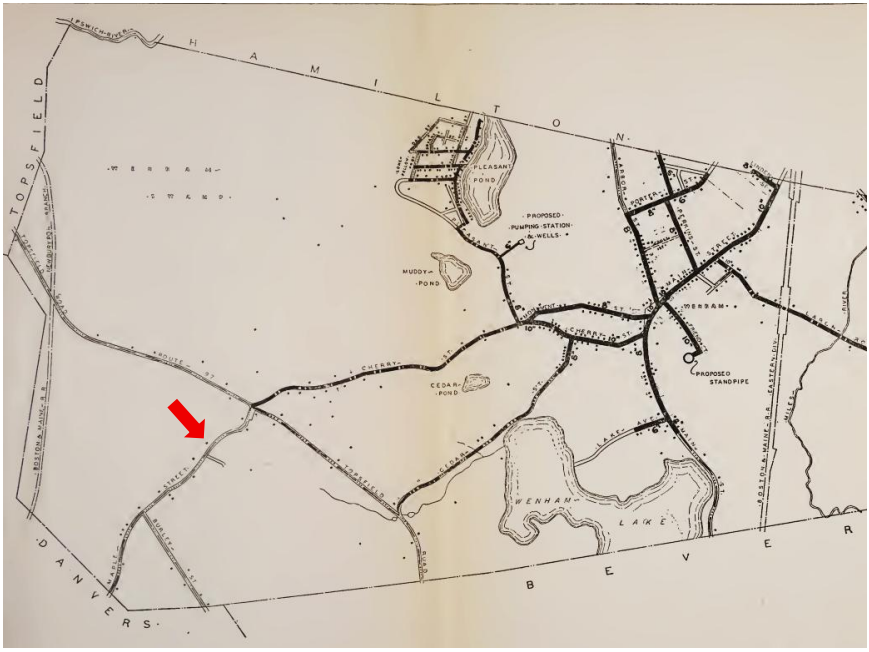


Figure 5.24. West Wenham and the center of town, 1944. This map was made to show the different phases that were planned for construction of the town's water system. The darkly colored roads show the first phases of the project, while Maple Street was part of the final phases of the project. The dots represents houses; the arrow points to the Thomas Kilham House.[105]

105 Howard F. Bailey, "Town of Wenham, Mass., Proposed Water System" (1944), in Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1945), between 148-149.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood:

- Natural Gas Transmission Line, 1951
- Chicken Hill, 1950s

In 1951 a right-of-way was secured by the Northeastern Gas Transmission Company to lay a natural gas line through West Wenham (Figure 5.25).

By the 1950s the hill traversed by Topsfield Road that crests between Daniels Road and Conrad Circle had become known as "Chicken Hill," so named because of the chicken farms run by the Angelini family on the east side of Topsfield Road and the Conrad family on the west side of the road. (This hill had once been called both Meadow Hill and Causeway Hill.)[106]

106 Dick and Barbara Russell, interview with Robert O. Corcoran and Frederick ("Rick") S. Woodland Jr., February 11, 2018, at First Church of Wenham (Congregational), Wenham.

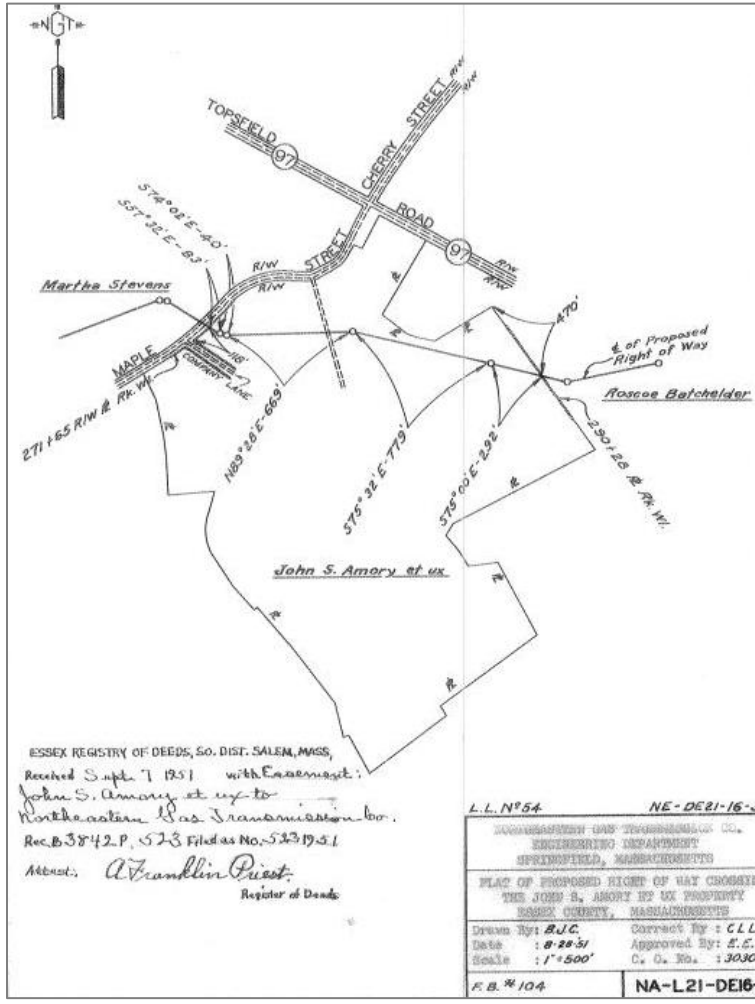


Figure 5.25. Right-of-way for the natural gas line, 1951.[107]

107 Essex County Deeds Plan 1951:523 ("Plat of Proposed Right of Way Crossing the John S. Amory et ux Property, Essex County, Massachusetts," 1951). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 1951:593 ("Plat of Proposed Right of Way Crossing the F. L. Higginson Property, Essex County, Massachusetts," 1951).

THE PAYSON FAMILY, TENANTS FROM 1951 TO 1952

Richard H. Payson (1925–2019), his wife **Rosamond (1926–2007)** and their children **David (b.1949)**, **Joyce (b.1951)** and **Paula (1952–2001)** lived in the house during 1951 and 1952, moving to North Carolina by 1953.[108]

Genealogical information from this point forward in this text is reduced out of respect for the privacy of former residents (and members of their families) who may still be living.

Richard Harold Payson was the son of Harold A. and Hilda M. (Tildorff) Payson, was born on September 26, 1925 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and died on December 10, 2019 in Norwood, Massachusetts. He married Rosamond Dorothy Joyce on June 6, 1948 in Danvers, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of Joseph V. and Elizabeth I. (Anketell) Joyce, was born on December 26, 1926 in Danvers, and died on September 26, 2007 in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The Paysons had eight children. Out of respect for the privacy of those who are still living, we'll note here that just three of their children lived in the Thomas Kilham House—David Harold Payson, Joyce Lee Payson and Paula Elizabeth Payson. While living in Wenham, Payson was foreman mechanic at the Danvers State Hospital.[109]

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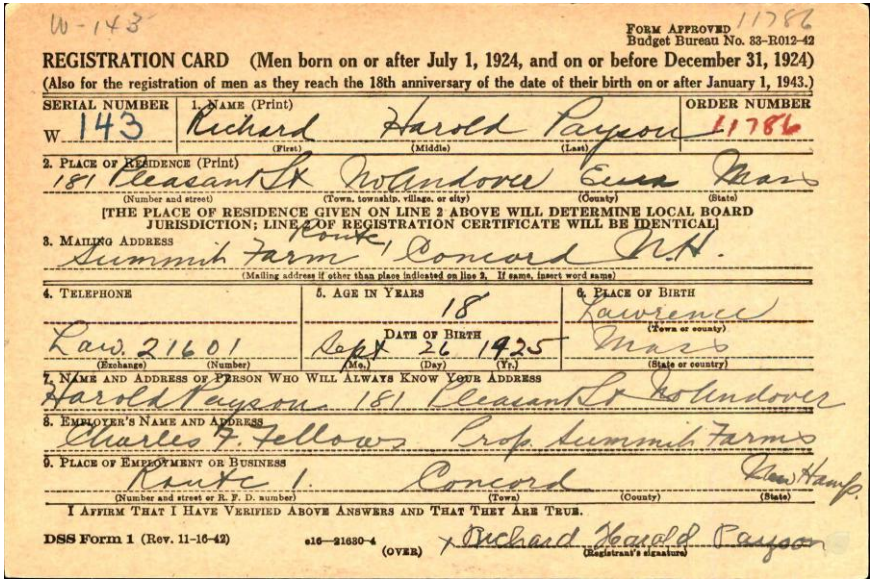
108 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1951):945, 964, (1953):966; and Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1952), 10. Wenham did not publish a street list for 1951.

109 Town of Danvers, *Births, 1945–1959*, MS, 29, 43, 50, Town Clerk's Office, Danvers; Town of Danvers, *Marriage Returns, 1948–1949*, MS, 1948:65 (marriage certificate, Richard H. Payson, mechanic, and Rosamond D. Joyce, waitress); R. L. Polk, *Polk's Salem City Directory*, (1949):604 (mechanic living at 39 Forest Street, Danvers), (1950):633 (mechanic living at 39 Forest Street, Danvers); United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Middleton, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:282:45; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1952), 88; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, W143; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #020427027 (Paula E. Payson); "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #020427-027 (Paula E. Payson) and 027227027 (Rosamond Joyce); obituary, "Richard Payson," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* [Worcester, MA], December 20, 2019; obituary, "Richard H. Payson," *MetroWest Daily News* [Framingham, MA], December 20, 2019; obituary, "Richard H. Payson," https://www.shortandrowefuneralhome.com/obituary/Richard-Payson (Marlborough, MA); death certificate, Rosamond Payson, City Clerk's Office, Marlborough, Massachusetts, #289; and death certificate, Richard H. Payson (death in Norwood), City Clerk's Office, Marlborough, 2019:055520, #599.



W-143 11786

FORM APPROVED
Budget Bureau No. 33-R012-42

REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)

(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print) (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER
W 143	Richard Harold Payson	11786

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print): 181 Pleasant St (Number and street) Andover (Town, township, village, or city) Essex (County) Mass (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS: Summit Farm Route 1 Concord N.H.
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
Law. 2161 (Exchange) (Number)	18	Lawrence (Town or county) Mass (State or country)
	DATE OF BIRTH: Sept 26 1925 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: Harold Payson 181 Pleasant St Andover

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Charles F. Fellows Prop. Summit Farms

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: Route 1. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Concord (Town) (County) New Hamp. (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42) 16—21630-4 (OVER) x Richard Harold Payson (Registrant's signature)

Figure 5.26. Richard H. Payson's draft registration card, 1943.[110]

110 "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, W143. On its reverse side the card is dated September 27, 1943 at Andover and includes the detail that he had "defective speech."

The Chamberlain Family, Tenants From 1952 to 1955

Alfred Chamberlain (1921–2004), his wife **Maxine (1924–2001)** and their sons **Alfred Jr. (b.1941)** and **Maxwell (b.1943)** lived in the house from 1952 through 1955, moving to Methuen, Massachusetts by 1956.[111] Alfred Richard Chamberlain, son of Charles E. and Margaret (Mulcahy) Chamberlain, was born on January 10, 1921 in Falmouth, Maine, and died on March 14, 2004 in Kingston, New Hampshire. He married Maxine Annette Deshon on September 14, 1940 in Maine. The daughter of Maxwell A. and Iola B. (Linscott) Deshon, she was born on April 7, 1924 in Orrs Island, Maine, and died on December 24, 2001 in Exeter, New Hampshire. Their son Alfred Jr. was born on May 24, 1941 in Portland, Maine and their son Maxwell was born in on January 8, 1943 in Portland.[112]

The Chamberlains lived for part of 1952 in Salem, Massachusetts, before moving to the Thomas Kilham House. Alfred Sr. identified himself as an iron worker in 1952 and a steel worker in 1954—but where exactly he worked is

111 Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1953):10, (1954):12 (26 Maple Street being recorded as vacant on January 1 of that year), (1955):12; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1953), 143, 144 (Maxwell and Alfred Chamberlain, third- and fifth-grade students in Wenham's school system, academic year ending June 1952); Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1954), 946, 954; Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1954), 155, 157 (Maxwell and Alfred Chamberlain, fourth- and sixth-grade students in Wenham's school system, academic year ending June 1953); Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1955), 157, 158, 160 (Maxwell and Alfred Chamberlain [Jr.], fifth- and seventh-grade students in Wenham's school system, academic year ending June 1954); and R. L. Polk, *Polk's Greater Lawrence City Directory* (1956), 768.

112 United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Kittery, York County, Maine, 16: 55A:1; obituary, "Maxine A. Chamberlain," *The Rockingham News* [Plaistow, NH], December 28, 2001, http://files.usgwarchives.net/nh/state/obits/2001/rock20011228.txt; "Maine, U.S., Marriage Index, 1892–1996," online database, Ancestry.com, 2003 (Alfred a resident of Yarmouth and Maxine a resident of Portland); obituary, "Alfred R. Chamberlain Sr.," *Manchester Union Leader* [Manchester, NH], March 18, 2004, A6; "Maine, U.S., Birth Records, 1715–1922" (2010), Cumberland County, 1921; "U.S., Public Records Index, 1950–1993, Volume 1," online database, Ancestry.com, 2010; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #001429917 (Maxine Chamberlain) and 005188248 (Alfred Chamberlain); "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #001429917 (Maxine Chamberlain), 005188248 (Alfred Chamberlain) and 023326767 (Maxwell Chamberlain); and "New Hampshire, U.S., Marriage Records, 1700–1971," online database, Ancestry.com, 2021, certificate of intention of marriage #62-3802.

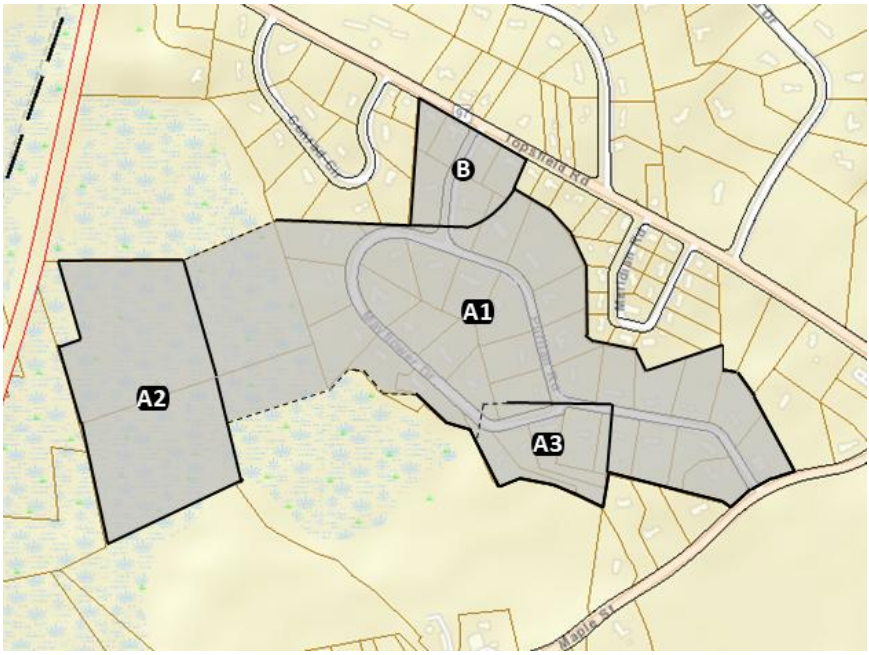


Figure 5.27. Subdivision of the Elwell F. Fairfield Farm, 1955. Fairfield sold his family's farm in two transactions. The bulk of the farm, described in three lots in the deed and shown here as lots A1, A2 and A3, was purchased by produce-grower/real estate investor George R. Wheeler. The rest of the farm—the former Upper Field, shown here as lot B—was purchased by real estate broker Gordon B. Alley.[113]

113 Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Essex County Deeds 4145:110 (Elwell F. Kimball to George R. Wheeler, 1955) and 4146:140 (Elwell F. Kimball to Gordon B. Alley, 1955); and Essex County Deeds Plan 1955:149 ("Plan of Land Belonging to Elwell F. Kimball, Wenham, Mass.," 1955), the Upper Field.

an open question. By 1956 they had moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts, Alfred Sr. once again identifying himself as a steel worker.[114]

114 R. L. Polk, *Polk's Salem City Directory* (1952), 67; Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1954), 954; and R. L. Polk, *Polk's Greater Lawrence City Directory* (1956), 768.

CHAPTER 6

SUBURBANIZATION

WEST WENHAM'S landscape changed dramatically during the 1950s and 1960s as the post-war baby boom encouraged subdivision of the neighborhood's farms and the development of new housing. With the exception of Regwill Avenue (which was laid out in 1938), the neighborhood's street system hadn't changed in over a century.[1] But expansion of that system began in 1949 and 1950 with the development of Meridian Road and Eaton Road. And the former Kimball Farm would become the locus of two new streets: Puritan Road and Mayflower Drive.

The social makeup of West Wenham also changed, as suburbanization encouraged migration to the neighborhood of families who were born elsewhere, families whose income earners pursued middle-management and executive corporate careers, working outside of Wenham. In this chapter we meet the families who owned the Thomas Kilham House

1 The last town-maintained road to be laid out—prior to Regwill Avenue—was the portion of Topsfield Road (formerly Bomer Street) that connected the Maple/Cherry Street intersection with Flint Street, a project that was done in 1835. See page 36 in Volume 1.

between 1955 and 1997 (when the house was bought by its current owners).

The house experienced a significant transformation during this period, when owner Evelyn Pescosolido renovated it shortly before and in the wake of a fire that occurred in 1959. Pescosolido's post-fire renovations saved the building and left the footprint of its rooms largely untouched, but significant portions of its antique finished surfaces (walls, ceilings, flooring, fireplace trim) were lost in the fire.

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HOUSE FLIPPING AND SUBDIVISION OF THE FARM, 1955–1956

There was a land rush going on in West Wenham by the mid-1950s. The Thomas Kilham House was bought and sold three times during 1955, and significant parts of the farmland itself subdivided into house lots in 1955 and 1956. Four men—George R. Wheeler, George H. Bright, William E. A. Haslegrave and Eldridge T. Davis—got a piece of the action, none of whom actually living in the Thomas Kilham House.

George R. Wheeler, Owner of the House in 1955

Elwell Kimball sold his farm in two transactions, the bulk of it (including the house) to George Raymond Wheeler (1893–1956), a market gardener who lived on Humphrey Street in Marblehead, Massachusetts. The son of George H. and Harriet E. (Ingalls) Wheeler, he was born on April 14, 1893 in Marblehead, never married, and died on April 16, 1956 in Marblehead.[2] Market gardeners, also known as truck gardeners, grew produce for commercial sale. He assembled a portfolio of pieces of open land—usually holding a given lot for several years so as to farm it but sometimes flipping a lot within a few months. His portfolio included lots in Hamilton, Beverly and Ipswich[3] as well as lots on Larch Row and Perkins Street in Wenham.[4] In 1950 he bought 25 acres along Wenham Street in Danvers and 21 acres on the south

2 United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Marblehead, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:234:11; R. L. Polk, *Polk's Salem City Directory, Including Peabody, Danvers and Marblehead, Vol. LII, 1952* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1952), 811; "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," online database, Ancestry.com, 2005, Swampscott City, Draft Board 24, Draft Card W; "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," online database, Ancestry.com, 2010, Massachusetts, U2064; "Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," online database, Ancestry.com, 2011, Marblehead, 1893:88; "U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925–1970," online database, Ancestry.com, 2012, #4,182,845; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 1893:754; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1901–1980," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 65:375; and Findagrave.com, memorial #44675900.

3 Essex County Deeds 2685:346 (George E. Cain to George R. Wheeler, 1926), 3056:99 (Charles E. Whipple to George R. Wheeler, 1935), 3401:224 (Guaranty Trust Company to George R. Wheeler, 1945), 3450:331 (Charles S. Lee to George R. Wheeler, 1946), 3450:332 (Charles S. Lee and Annie Lee Sampson to George R. Wheeler, 1946), 3581:278 (Henry F. and S. Gertrude Foster to George R. Wheeler, 1947), and 4255:427 (Hazel E. Lane to George R. Wheeler, 1956).

4 Essex County Deeds 3157:408 (Marion D. Callahan to George R. Wheeler, 1938), and 3315:528 (John L. and Helen H. Woodason to George R. Wheeler, 1942).

side of Maple Street, the former lot being one that he held for a number years but the latter lot being one that he flipped. In 1954 he bought two four-acre lots along Burley Street, another case where he held on to one lot but flipped the other.[5]

He bought the Thomas Kilham House and most of the farm in 1955. But he owned the property for just three months, selling it to Eldridge T. (1910–1973) and Dorothy E. (Stewart) Davis (1912–1986).[6] The deeds recording his purchase and sale are silent on the prices he paid and received.

Development of the Upper Field, 1955–1956

When Elwell Kimball sold his farm in 1955, real estate broker Gordon B. Alley (1914–1992) bought the Upper Field (Figures 5.27 and 6.1). Alley was acting as agent for George H. Bright (1920–1984) and William E. A. Haslegrave (1924–1997), selling them the property just three days after buying it.[7] Bright and Haslegrave, both carpenters who were living in Beverly, had joined forces to form B & H Builders, buying their first building lot in 1952. By the time they bought the Upper Field, they had bought six building lots in Hamilton and sixteen building lots in Beverly.[8] They subdivided the Upper

5 For the Wenham Street property, see Essex County Deeds 3722:384 (N. Perley and Lucy A. Clark, 1950), a property he sold in 1954 per 4062:132 (George R. Wheeler to The Laurel Company, 1954), first parcel. For the Maple Street, a property with address of 51 Maple Street, see 3729:443 (Francis B. and Elizabeth R. Chalifoux to George R. Wheeler, 1950) and Plan 78:14 ("Plan of Land of Francis B. Chalifoux & Elizabeth R. Chalifoux," 1949). For disposition of the Maple Street property, see 3738:279 (George R. Wheeler to William H. Gabel, 1950) and 3788:266 (George R. Wheeler to Gerald D. and Evelyn M Crowell, 1950).

For the first Burley Street property, see Essex County Deeds 4052:89 (George A. Perkins to George R Wheeler, 1954), a lot he flipped per 4062:132 (George R. Wheeler to The Laurel Company, 1954), second parcel. For the second Burley Street property, see 4058:232 (George A. Perkins to George R. Wheeler, 1954), a lot that his heirs sold four years later per 4473:97 (Annie E. Wheeler and Evelyn M. Horak to Harold R. and Lorraine M. Ellis, 1958).

6 Essex County Deeds 4145:110 (Elwell F. Kimball to George R. Wheeler, 1955), 4172:383 (George R. Wheeler to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1955), and 4172:385 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Equitable Co-Operative Bank, mortgage, 1955).

7 Essex County Deeds 4146:140 (Elwell F. Kimball to Gordon B. Alley, 1955), 4148:141 (Gordon B. Alley to George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave, 1955), 4175:545 (Notice of Petition, 1955); and Essex County Deeds Plan 1955:149 ("Plan of Land Belonging to Elwell F. Kimball, Wenham, Mass.," 1955). For Gordon Alley see also Findagrave.com, memorial #127928716.

8 Essex County Deeds 3904:580 (George A. and Margaret F. Harrigan to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1952), 3940:418 (Fred J. Moscone, administrator, to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1952), 3942:550 (Robert J. Moffett to William E. A.

Field into five house lots, selling all five in 1956.[9] One of those lots—at the current-day intersection of Puritan and Topsfield Roads—was purchased by Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis.

Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1952), 3943:120 (George A. and Margaret F. Harrigan to Haslegrave and Bright, 1952), 3967:430 (James F. and Mary P. Dean to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1953), 3969:193 (George A. and Margaret F. Harrigan to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1952), 3995:9 (Edgar W. and L. Marjorie Haley to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1953), 4020:317 (Ellen F. McNutt to George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave, 1953), 4020:318 (Robert R. and Ellen F. McNutt to George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave, 1953), 4030:368 (George A. and Margaret F. Harrigan to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1953), 4047:188 (George A. and Margaret F. Harrigan to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1954), 4056:130 (Cecilia H. Burrows to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1954), 4073:123-125 (Margaret N. Connolly *et al.* to George H. Bright, 1952 and 1954), three deeds, 4073:126 (George H. Bright to William Haslegrave, 1954), 4077:124 (Edgar W. and L. Marjorie Haley to William E. A. Haslegrave and George H. Bright, 1954), 4081:548 (Howard Sullivan to George H. Bright, 1954, and 4091:234 (Alcide J. Lessard to B & H Homes, 1953). Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory, Including Manchester and Essex, Vol. L, 1955* (Beverly, MA: Crowley & Lunt, 1955), 386, 506; and Findagrave.com, memorials #16042683 and 231925279.

9 Essex County Deeds 4246:185 (George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1956), 4298:116 (George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave to Harold S. and Sylvia B. Maddix, 4307:89 (George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave to Justin W. and Irene L. Poor, 1956), 4308:190 (George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave to William T. and Virginia B. Thurlow, 1956), and 4320:447 (George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave to Gordon B. and Arlene A. Alley, 1956). Essex County Land Court Decree 85310 (Tacona Company Inc., decree of registration, 1958).

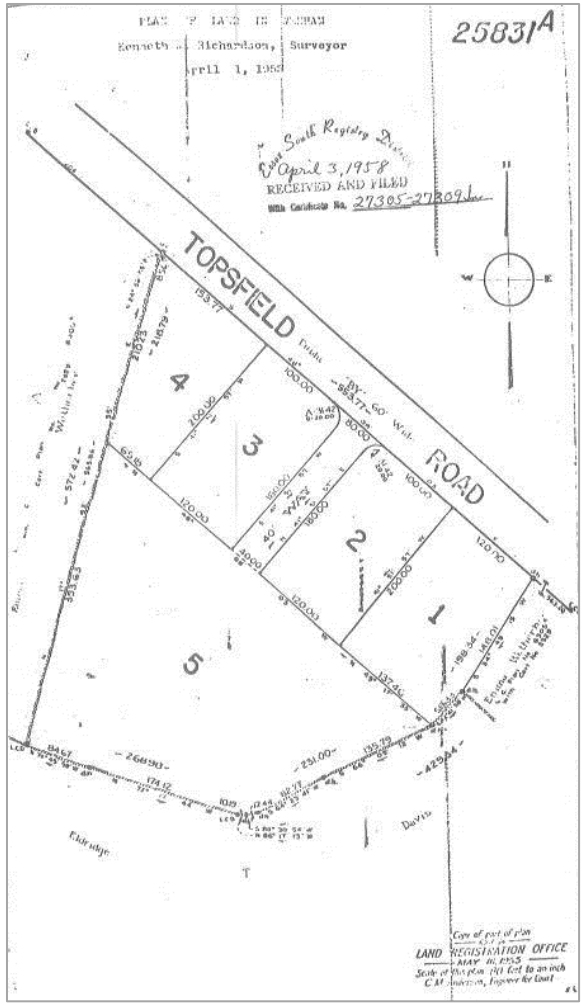


Figure 6.1. Subdivision plan for the Upper Field, 1958.[10]

10 Essex County Land Court Certificate Plan 25831A ("Plan of Land in Wenham," 1958). Lot #5 included the 40-foot-wide strip of land between Lots #2 and 3—which would become part of Puritan Road.

Figure 6.2. West Wenham, 1955. Compare this view with Figure 5.12. Notice the development of Meridian Road and the construction of houses along Topsfield Road at the former site of the Upper Field. Notice also that the gravel pit has been graded. The arrow points to the Thomas Kilham House.[11]

11 Photographed in 1955 by the United States Geological Survey. Image from HistoricAerials.com, accessed November 12, 2022. Given the date of this photograph and the fact that

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: New Streets in West Wenham, 1938–1958

Development of a new street was a multi-year process. This table shows the year when a developer filed a plan to subdivide a given property, the year when the first household appeared on a newly created street, and the year that the town accepted the street as a town-maintained road.[12]

New Street	Plan Filed	First Household	Accepted by Town
Regwill Avenue	n/a	1938	1939
Meridian Road	1949	1953	1960
Eaton Road	1950	1951	1954
Puritan Road	1956	1958	1963 and 1967

the Upper Field lots were sold in 1956, the two houses appearing in the former Upper Field were apparently built on speculation.

12 Compare Essex County Deeds 3155:180 (William G. Cavanagh to The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 1938) with 3120:359 (Benjamin W. and Dorothea W. Currier to William G. Cavanagh 1937). Essex County Deeds Plan 79:10 ("Plan of Land Owned by Katherine C. Mulry, Subdivider, Wenham, Mass.," 1949), 88:54 ("Plan & Profile, Puritan Road," 1955), and 90:89 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Owned by Eldridge T. Davis, 1956). Essex County Land Court Certificate Plans 6305B ("Subdivision Plan of Land in Wenham," 1948), 6305F ("Subdivision Plan of Land in Wenham," 1961), and 25831A ("Plan of Land in Wenham," 1958). Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Wenham, and the Reports of the School Committee and Trustees of the Public Library, For the Year Ending December 31, 1938* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1939), 80, 83; (1940):77; (1955):80, 89; (1960):17, 194; (1961):86; (1964):34-37; (1967):52, 63. Town of Wenham, *Street List: 1950–1973* (no publisher), Town Clerk's Office, Wenham, *Street List of Persons 20 Years of Age and Over Residing in Wenham on January 1, 1952,* 7-8; (1954):13, (1959):6; (1963):6, 10, 15.

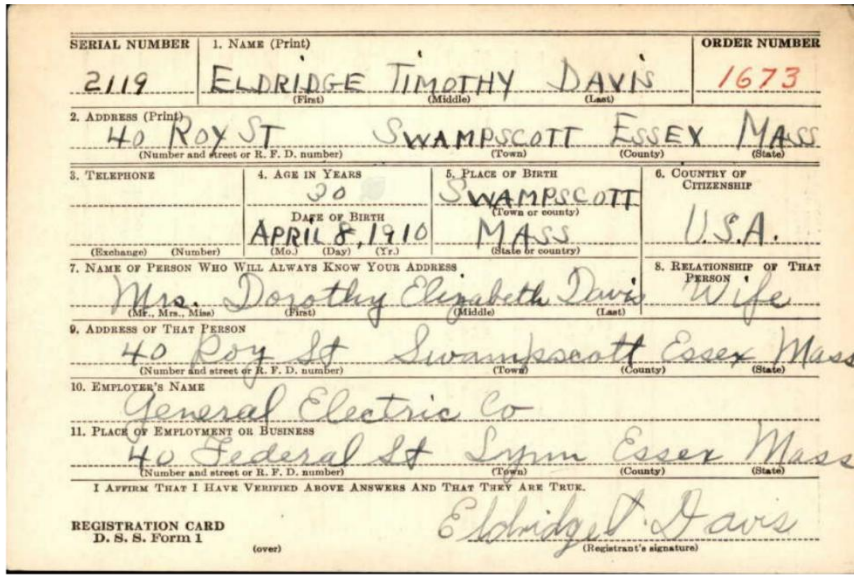
Flint Street was discontinued as a town-maintained road in 1955. Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1955):75. In 1942 it was referred to as a private way; see Essex County Deeds 3286:78 (William G. Cavanagh to M. Doris Poor, 1942) and 3295:69 (Taking of Easement, 1942), and Plan 73:77 ("Plan of a Portion of Cherry Street from Topsfield Road to the 1934 Relocation in the Town of Wenham as Relocated," 1942).

Eldridge and Dorothy Davis, Owners of the House in 1955

Eldridge Timothy Davis (1910–1973) was born on April 8, 1910 in Swampscott, Massachusetts, the son of Timothy F. and Minnie (McInnis) Davis, and died on October 31, 1973 in Norwood, Massachusetts.[13] He married, on November 26, 1931 in Swampscott, Dorothy Elizabeth Stewart (1912–1986). The daughter of George A. and Elizabeth A. (White) Stewart, she was born on December 24, 1912 in Swampscott, Massachusetts, and died on June 23, 1986 in Lynn, Massachusetts. They had two daughters, Elizabeth Ann Davis (born on August 17, 1937 in Swampscott) and Ellen Mary Davis (born on November 12, 1948 in Lynn, Massachusetts).[14]

13 "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1970–2003," online database, Ancestry.com, 2005, #045929; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947," online database, Ancestry.com, 2011, Massachusetts, 2119 (April 8); "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 590:730 (April 9 [*sic*]); "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014," online database, Ancestry.com, 2014, #015093230 (April 8); "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007," online database, Ancestry.com, 2015, #015093230 (April 8); obituary, "Eldridge Davis," *Boston Globe*, November 2, 1973; obituary, "Eldridge Davis, 63, Westwood Town Official," *Boston Herald American*, November 2, 1973, 9; and obituary, "Eldridge Davis, Ex-Swampscott Home Builder," *Boston Herald American*, November 3, 1973, 26.

14 "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1970–2003" (2005), #033700; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Index, 1901–1955 and 1966–1970," online database, Ancestry.com, 2013, 63:401; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #014403398; "Massachusetts, U.S., Boston Archdiocese Roman Catholic Sacramental Records, 1789–1920," online database, Ancestry.com, 2017; obituary, "Dorothy E. Davis," *Boston Globe*, June 25, 1986; marriage certificate, Town Clerk's Office, Swampscott, Massachusetts, #106; birth certificate, Elizabeth Ann Davis, Town Clerk's Office, Swampscott, #165; and birth certificate, Ellen Mary Davis, Town Clerk's Office, Swampscott, #205.



SERIAL NUMBER 2119 — 1. NAME (Print) ELDRIDGE (First) TIMOTHY (Middle) DAVIS (Last) — ORDER NUMBER 1673

2. ADDRESS (Print) 40 ROY ST (Number and street or R. F. D. number) SWAMPSCOTT (Town) ESSEX (County) MASS (State)

3. TELEPHONE (Exchange) (Number)

4. AGE IN YEARS 30 — DATE OF BIRTH APRIL 8, 1910 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)

5. PLACE OF BIRTH SWAMPSCOTT (Town or county) MASS (State or country)

6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.

7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Dorothy (First) Elizabeth (Middle) Davis (Last)

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Wife

9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 40 Roy St (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Swampscott (Town) Essex (County) Mass (State)

10. EMPLOYER'S NAME General Electric Co

11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 40 Federal St (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Lynn (Town) Essex (County) Mass (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

Eldridge T. Davis (Registrant's signature)

REGISTRATION CARD
D. S. S. Form 1
(over)

Figure 6.3. Eldridge T. Davis's draft registration card, 1940.[15]

15 "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, 2119. On its reverse side the card is dated October 16, 1940 at Swampscott.

Davis was an electrician at General Electric (Lynn, Massachusetts) by 1930 and as late as 1944, and started his own roofing business by 1948, all the while living in Swampscott.[16] In 1937 he bought a cottage in Idlewood Grove at Wenham's Pleasant Pond, holding on to it for six years. He subsequently acquired additional Idlewood Grove lots (some from his stepfather and mother), flipping most and saving one for a summer residence.[17] Between 1938 and 1955 Eldridge and Dorothy Davis acquired four properties in Nahant, Massachusetts, flipping two of them;[18] eight properties in Lynn (six of which from his mother or stepfather), flipping seven of them;[19] and

16 Crosby Publishing Company, *Swampscott, Saugus, Nahant and Lynnfield Directory, 1931* (Palmer, MA: Crosby Publishing Co., 1930), 123; United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Swampscott, Essex County, Massachusetts, 277:21; R. L. Polk, *Polk's Swampscott City Directory, 1940* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1940), 227, (1942):226, (1944):212, (1946):217, (1949):220; United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Swampscott, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:394:6; United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Swampscott, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:460:5; and birth certificate, Ellen Mary Davis, Town Clerk's Office, Swampscott, #205.

17 Essex County Deeds 3104:505 (Harry A. Chapman to Eldridge T. Davis, 1937), 3348:91 (Eldridge T. Davis to Harold M. Graves, 1943), 3403:73 (Martin L. and Minnie O. Quinn to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945), 3406:211 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Henry S. and Marjorie S. Szczechowicz, 1945), 3421:38 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Beatrice A. Robidoux, 1945), 3427:248 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Hazel E. Manzer, 1945), 3433:515 (Martin L. and Minnie O. Quinn to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945), 3444:461 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Anne Belanger, 1946), 3456:443 (Lillie M. Jordan *et al.* to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945), 3456:441 (Burgess Clayton to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945), 3456:442 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Jeanne D'Arc de Langis, 1946), and 3558:340 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Burgess Clayton, 1945); and Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1949):946, (1951):954. Minnie O. Quinn was Eldridge T. Davis's mother, per 3830:397.

18 Essex County Deeds 3420:266 (Joseph T. Moran to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945), 3425:340 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Catherine H. and Nicholas J. Lacey, 1945), 3445:27 (Joseph T. Moran to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945), 4009:465 (Eldridge T. Davis to Nicholas C. and Anastasia Fountas, 1953), and 4009:468 (Nicholas C. and Anastasia Fountas to Eldridge T. Davis, 1953).

19 Essex County Deeds 3148:139 (Martin L. Quinn to Eldridge T. Davis, 1938), 3385:328 (Eldridge T. Davis to Martin L. Quinn, 1938); 3218:349 (Lynn Institution for Savings to Eldridge T. Davis, 1940), 3230:102 (Eldridge T. Davis to Helen A. Kutlowsky, 1940); 3236:453 (Lynn Five Cents Savings Bank to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1940); 3286:424 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Bror G. F. and Lois K. Fredholm, 1942), 3430:373 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Frank J. and Pauline C. Sulesky, 1945); 3405:89 (Martin L. Quinn to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945); 3410:332 (Martin L. Quinn to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945), 3436:149 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Emanuella Fiore, 1946); 3438:211 (Martin L. and Minnie O. Quinn to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis,

twenty-five properties in Swampscott, flipping twenty of them.[20] Most of these properties were lots that were smaller than an acre, some already with housing and others open land. The scale of their Maple Street-Puritan Road project would far eclipse any of their previous projects.

They bought the Thomas Kilham House and 65 acres of land from George Wheeler in June 1955, just three months after Wheeler had bought the same property and immediately went about the task of surveying and subdividing the acreage. They carved out a house lot of just under two acres

1946), 3487:84 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Jennie Katz, 1946); 3438:372 (Martin L. Quinn to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1946), 3456:353 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Michael H. Fame, 1946); 3864:303 (Minnie O. Quinn to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1951); and 3901:229 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Charles L. and Dorothy B. Harthan, 1952).

20 Essex County Deeds 3269:191 (Security Trust Company *et al.* to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1941), 3380:263 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Forrest W. and Barbara L. Fessenden, 1944); 3385:61 (Rodney H. Adams, executor, to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1944), 3406:386 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Annie Sherman, 1945); 3412:262 (Michael and Nathan Tobin to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1945), 3412:263 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Jennie E. Snow, 1945); 3436:75 (Ella M. Fielding to Eldridge T. Davis, 1945), 3444:599 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis [*sic*] to Elizabeth A. Randall, 1946); 3502:382 (Town of Swampscott to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1946), 3525:377 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Reta [*sic*] Durgin, 1947); 3797:423 (John H. and M. Francis McDonough to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1951); 3908:598 (Felice Dagnese to Eldridge T. Davis, 1952), 3972:513 (Eldridge T. Davis to Frank N. Ryan Jr., 1953); 4020:333 (Michael J. Reardon and Donald S. Emmerton, conservators, to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1953), 4020:335 (Donald S. and Ann J. Emmerton to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1953), 4047:14 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Joseph D'Agnese 1954), 4055:266 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. to Ernest M. Corrado, 1954), 4077:543 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Inga E. and Magda E. Gustavsen, 1954); 4023:414 (Richard H. and Ruth E. Bessom to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1953), 4092:187 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Rodger and Gladys R. Kohlier, 1954), 4023:415 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Roy E. and Marion E. Dalton, 1953); 4044:200 (Ella M. Granger to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1954), 4044:564 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. to Alfred J. and Lillian G. Casey, 1954), 4118:276 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Robert H. and Catherine A. Foley, 1954); 4123:157 (Fred P. and Bertha I. Rowe to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1954), 4123:158 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to John DiDio, 1954); 4125:509 (S. Louise Collins to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1954), 4151:523 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to J. Julian and Selma S. Mogel, 1955); and 4155:2 (Mary H. Fletcher, administratrix, to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1955).

and sold it in August to Earle W. (1917–2006) and Josephine A. (Lyon) Newton (1916–2014), a lot that had frontage along a proposed road that would provide access to lots in the interior of the development (Figure 4.49).[21]

Development of Puritan Road, 1955–1956

Puritan Road was conceived in two phases. The first of two subdivision plans was drawn in October 1955 (Figure 6.4). It shows that the Davises had already decided on the name "Puritan Road," and had laid out five house lots —Lot #1 being the Thomas Kilham House lot, Lot #2 reserved for the Davises, and Lots #3-5 ready for sale. The Davises immediately built a house on Lot #2 and moved into it by January of 1956. Although its current-day address is 2 Puritan Road, at the time its address was 20 Maple Street.[22]

In February 1956 the Davises bought a lot in the former Upper Field, fronting on Topsfield Road (Figure 6.1, Lot #5) and abutting their Maple Street property.[23] This meant that now they had frontage on both Maple Street and Topsfield Road, allowing them to begin execution of the next phase of development, and prompting the filing of a second subdivision plan for Puritan Road (Figure 6.5). Six hundred sixty feet of water main were installed during 1956—connecting Maple Street's water main with Lots #1-5—and an additional 450 feet were installed in 1957.[24]

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21 Essex County Deeds 4172:383 (George R. Wheeler to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1955), 4172:385 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Equitable Co-Operative Bank, mortgage, 1955), 4199:298 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton, 1955); and 4199:299 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Haverhill Savings Bank, mortgage, 1955). Essex County Deeds Plan 4199:298 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Owned by Eldridge T. Davis," 1955).

22 Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1956), 12, providing a list of residents as of January 1, 1956, reported 26 Maple Street as vacant and Eldridge and Dorothy Davis living at 20 Maple Street. The Davises were still living at 20 Maple Street in 1957; see Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1957), 13 and Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1958), 89. They sold their 20 Maple Street property in December 1957, the Prescotts moving in by January 1, 1958; see Essex County Deeds 4427:427 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Thomas G. and Beatrice F. Prescott, 1957) and Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1958), 12. The street address for 20 Maple Street was changed to 2 Puritan Road during 1957; see Price & Lee Company, *Beverly, Hamilton, Wenham Directory, 1958* (New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1958), 936.

23 Essex County Deeds 4246:185 (George H. Bright and William E. A. Haslegrave to Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis, 1956).

24 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures* (1957):107, (1958):103.

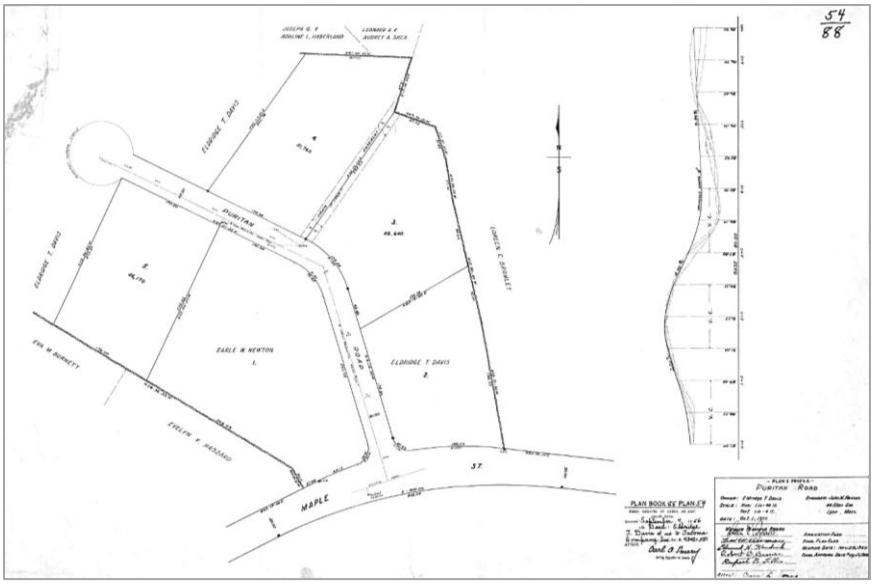

Figure 6.4. First phase of the development of Puritan Road, 1955.[25]

25 Essex County Deeds Plan 88:54 ("Plan & Profile, Puritan Road," 1955). The plan was filed in 1956.

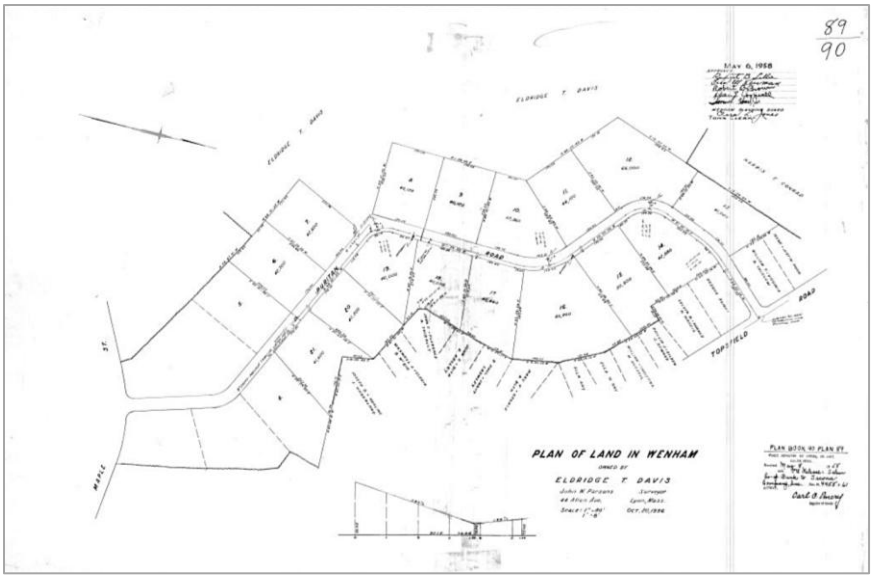

Figure 6.5. Second phase of the development of Puritan Road, 1956.[26]

26 Essex County Deeds Plan 90:89 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Owned by Eldridge T. Davis," 1956).

Eldridge and Dorothy Davis sold Lots #3-5 to the Tacona Company, real estate developers, in September 1956.[27] The next year they sold the rest of their property, encompassing the remainder of current-day Puritan Road and all of current-day Mayflower Drive, to the Tacona Company; the purchase price was $12,500.[28]

The Tacona Company was formed in 1953 and was based in Boston. Its president was Ralph A. Morrison Jr. (1920–2010) a construction engineer who lived in Swampscott; its treasurer was George B. Thomson (1921–2006) a builder and home designer who lived in Marblehead; and its clerks were William B. Sleigh Jr. (1903–1991) an attorney who lived in Marblehead and

27 Essex County Deeds 4302:581 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Tacona Company, Inc., 1956. In 1957, in chronological order, the Tacona Company sold Lot #4 (6 Puritan Road) to Norma S. Page, Lot #5 (3 Puritan Road) to Donald G. and Elinor M. Mossman, and Lot #3 (4 Puritan Road) to Garfield and Georgette Hewson. See Essex County Deeds 4398:252 (Tacona Company to Norma S. Page, 1957), 4400:7 (Tacona Company to Donald G. and Elinor M. Mossman, 1957), and 4417:196 (Tacoma [*sic*] Company to Garfield J. Jr. and Georgette Hewson, 1957.

28 Essex County Deeds 4292:44 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Tacona Company, option, 1956), 4302:579 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Tacona Company, indenture, 1956), and 4350:409 (Eldridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Tacona Company, 1957).

The Tacona Company sold the rest of the Puritan Road lots in 1958 and 1959. In 1958, in chronological order, the Tacona Company sold Lot #6 (5 Puritan Road) to Edward F. and Carolyn E. Foster, Lot #20 (10 Puritan Road) to Ralph S. and Julia M. Pearson, Lot #15 (20 Puritan Road) to Robert P. and Shirley L. Oatman, Lot #8 (11 Puritan Road) to "Phil" and "Cil" Moscatiello, Lot #7 (7 Puritan Road) to James H. Bentley, and Lot #21 (8 Puritan Road) to Richard F. and Patricia J. Mitchell. See Essex County Deeds 4458:62 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Edward F. and Carolyn E. Foster, 1958), 4470:282 (Tacona Company Inc. to Ralph S. and Julia M. Pearson, 1958), 4470:284 (Tacona Company Inc. to Robert P. and Shirley L. Oatman, 1958), 4472:484 (Tacona Company Inc. to Pasqualino A. and Cecile J. Moscatiello, 1958), 4505:406 (Tacona Company Inc. to James H. Bentley, 1958), and 4514:13 (Tacona Company Inc. to Richard F. and Patricia J. Mitchell, 1958). In 1959, in chronological order, the Tacona Company sold Lot #19 (12 Puritan Road) to Edmund F. Trahan; and Lot #9 (13 Puritan Road), Lot #10 (15 Puritan Road), Lot #11 (17 Puritan Road), Lot #12 (19 Puritan Road), Lot #13 (21 Puritan Road), Lot #14 (22 Puritan Road), Lot #16 (18 Puritan Road), Lot #17 (16 Puritan Road) and Lot #18 (14 Puritan Road) to Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan. See Essex County Deeds 4574:536 (Tacona Co. Inc. to Edmund F. Trahan, 1959) and 4606:280 (Tacona Company Inc. to Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan, 1959).

Albert G. Tierney Jr. (1925–2011) an attorney who lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts.[29] By the time the Tacona Company bought the Puritan Road acreage, the company had already flipped two properties in Swampscott,[30] and had begun development of a twenty-lot property[31] and two adjacent lots[32] in

29 Secretary of the Commonwealth, Corporations Card File, Boston, citing charter #575-118, March 12, 1953; and Essex County Deeds 4049:491 (Tacona Company, Inc., certificate of vote, 1954) and 4148:216 (Tacona Company, Inc., certificate of votes, 1955). For Morrison, see United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Swampscott, 5:458:5; and "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #020099573. For Thomson, see R. L. Polk, *Polk's Salem City Directory* (1949), 719 and Findagrave.com, memorial #52844539. For Sleigh, see United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Marblehead, 5:238:76; and Findagrave.com, memorial #98241411. For Tierney, see H. A. Manning, *Manning's Cambridge Directory, For the Year Beginning January 1954* (Boston: H. A. Manning Co., 1954), 837; and Findagrave.com, memorial #64391553.

30 Essex County Deeds 3970:296 (Malcolm Thomson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1953), 4008:484 (Tacona Company, Inc. to William C. and Evangeline S. Bath, 1953), 4045:333 (Josephine E. Hanson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1954), and 4131:404 (Tacona Company, Inc. to John Pearlstein, 1955).

31 Essex County Deeds 4148:219 (New England Land Company to Tacona Company, Inc., 1955), 4148:224 (New England Land Company to Tacona Company, Inc., option, 1955), 4164:213 (Elliott Henderson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1955), 4175:69 (Elliott Henderson to Tacona Company, Inc.,1955), 4175:71 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Hermidas and Ethel V. Dion, 2955), 4200:575 (Elliott Henderson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1955), 4200:577 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Charles W. and Marie A. Connolly, 1955), 4208:379 (Elliott Henderson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1955), 4208:381 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Hermidas and Ethel V. Dion, 1955), 4228:248 (Elliott Henderson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1955), 4228:249 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Fred W. and Helen L. Morrison, 1955), 4251:298 (Elliott Henderson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1956), 4251:300 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Thomas Santamaria, 1956), 4272:230 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Thomas Santamaria, 1956), 4272:233 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Charles and Ida A. Axelrod, 1956), 4272:574 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Orlando and Irene Guidara, 1956), 4272:576 (Tacona Company, Inc. to John J. and Anna E. Guidara, 1956), 4275:509 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Richard A. Pellerin, 1956), 4283:130 (Tacona Company, Inc. to New England Land Company, mortgage, 1956), 4295:560 (Elliott Henderson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1956), 4295:561 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Louis S. and Genevieve C. Jarnes, 1956), and 4296:386 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Carl V. Jr. and Catherine T. Morse, 1956); and Essex County Deeds Plan 85:97 ("Plan of Lots on Hale St. & Eisenhower Ave.," 1954).

32 Essex County Deeds 4155:355 (Clarissa H. Thomson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1955), 4197:175 (Clarissa H. Thomson to Tacona Company, Inc., 1955), and 4282:249 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Francis L. Jr. and Evelyn L. Brandt, 1956).

Beverly. The company was dissolved in 1961 but was temporarily revived in 1966 for the purpose of clearing up a matter of a property title.[33]

EARLE AND JOSEPHINE NEWTON, OWNERS OF THE HOUSE FROM 1955 TO 1958

Earle Williams Newton 2nd (1917–2006), son of Earle W. and Anna (Moore) Newton, was born on April 10, 1917 in Cortland, New York, and died on May 25, 2006 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He married Josephine Antoinette Lyon (1916–2014) in 1938 in Amherst, Massachusetts.[34] Josephine was the daughter of M. Erle [*sic*] and Iva N. (Wright) Lyon, was born on August 2, 1916 in Cortland, and died on August 4, 2014 in Jacksonville, Florida.[35] They had two children: Earle Williams Newton 3rd (born May 12, 1943 in Burlington, Vermont) and Antoinette Lyon Newton (born March 25, 1947 in Montpelier, Vermont).[36]

Newton was a member of the Amherst College Class of 1938 and earned a master's degree from Columbia University in 1939. He was the director of the Vermont Historical Society in Barre (where he worked from 1942 to

33 Dissolved on September 27, 1961 and revived on March 7, 1966 for a period of not one year; see Secretary of the Commonwealth, Corporations Card File, Boston, citing certificates of condition 65-41386, 65-41387, 65-41388 and 65-41389.

34 Obituary, "Newton II, Earle Williams, *Florida Times-Union* [Jacksonville, Florida], May 28, 2006; "Vermont, U.S., Birth Records, 1909–2008," online database, Ancestry.com, 2010, Washington County, 1947, birth record for Antoinette Lyon Newton; "U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850–2010," online database, Ancestry.com, 2011, #01803-5807; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), New York, 710; "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Index, 1901–1955 and 1966–1970" (2013) 1:508; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #018035807; "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #018035807; "New York State, Birth Index, 1881–1942," online database, Ancesty.com, 2018, #29904; and Findagrave.com, memorial #123-778897.

35 "New York State, Birth Index, 1881–1942" (2018), #64445; obituary, "Josephine Newton," *Florida Times-Union* [Jacksonville, Florida], August 7, 2014, https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/timesunion/name/josephine-newton-obituary?pid=172009603; and Findagrave.com, memorials #101952824 and 101953648.

36 "Vermont, U.S., Birth Records, 1909–2008" (2010), Chittenden County, 1943; *Ibid.*, Washington County, 1947; and "Vermont, U.S., Marriage Records, 1909-2008" (2010), Chittenden County, 1987.

1950), during which time he helped found the two magazines *American Heritage* and *Vermont Life*, taking a two-year hiatus to serve in the Navy. He was director of Old Sturbridge Village from 1950 to 1954. Newton followed that with two years pursuing academic research, first as the director of the Institute on Historical and Archival Management at Harvard University and Radcliffe College, and then as a Fulbright fellow in England (earning a diploma in museum administration from the University of Bristol). He was a senior research scholar at the University of London as well as a lecturer at Uppsala University in Sweden. When he returned to the United States in 1956, he became the director of Pennsylvania's Bureau of Museums and Historic Sites and Properties. During this time he also served as director of the Museum of Art, Science and Industry in Bridgeport, Connecticut.[37]

Part of the North Kimball Barn, immediately to the north of the house (Figures 6.8-6.9), was taken down between 1955 and 1958 by the Davises or the Newtons.

The peripatetic Newtons owned the Thomas Kilham House for nearly three years but never lived in it. The house was empty while they owned it, his career having prompted them to move to Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.[38] They sold the house to his mother Anna (Moore) (Newton) McGraw (1883–1985) in May 1957 but bought it back from her in October that year. McGraw assumed the mortgage that the Newtons had taken out on the property when they bought it from the Davises, and then the Newtons re-assumed the same mortgage when they bought the house back from her.[39]

37 "Earle Newton," Wikipedia.org, last edited February 16, 2022. See also George Bria, "Earle W. Newton II '38," https://www.amherst.edu/amherst-story/magazine/in_memory/-1938/earlnewton (Amherst, MA: 2006); and Governor's House Library (2019).

38 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1956), 946; Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1956):12, (1957):13, (1958):12; and Price & Lee Company, (1958), 935.

39 Essex County Deeds 4383:10 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Anna M. McGraw, 1957) and 4483:152 (Anna M. McGraw to Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton, 1957). For Anna McGraw, see Findagrave.com, memorial #123778763.

Figure 6.6. Earle W. Newton 2nd, 1960s.[40]

40 Unidentified photographer; no date. Governor's House Library, "Profiles in History: Earle Newton," https://governorshouselibrary.wordpress.com/2019/06/19/profiles-in-history-earle-newton/ (Saint Augustine, FL: 2019), accessed November 28, 2022.

This five-month period of ownership by McGraw was apparently an effort by the Newtons to hide some of their assets. Indeed, Earle Newton seems to have been lax in some of his financial transactions: An attachment was ordered against the Newtons (and discharged) in 1955,[41] a second attachment was ordered (and discharged) in 1956,[42] a third was ordered in 1956 that wasn't discharged until after the Newtons had sold their Wenham property to McGraw,[43] and a fourth attachment was ordered in 1957 (and discharged prior to the sale to McGraw).[44] When the Newtons sold their Wenham property to his mother, they also simultaneously sold her properties in Danvers, South Groveland, Boxford and West Newbury, Massachusetts.[45]

EVELYN PESCOSOLIDO, OWNER OF THE HOUSE FROM 1958 TO 1970

The Newtons sold the Thomas Kilham House to Evelyn C. (Bulkeley) Pescosolido (1910–2001) in 1958.[46] Evelyn Carol Bulkeley, the daughter of William V. and Evelyn B. (Abrams) Bulkeley, was born on April 7, 1910 in Jersey City, New Jersey, and died on July 9, 2001 in Lake Worth Beach, Florida.[47] She married Carl Albert Pescosolido on October 30, 1931 in Boston or

41 Essex County Deeds 4210:160 (Grossman's of the North Shore Inc. *vs.* Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton, 1955) and 4223:494 (discharge, 1955).

42 Essex County Deeds 4257:83 (F. W. Newton Company *vs.* Earle W. Newton, 1956) and 4267:392 (discharge, 1956).

43 Essex County Deeds 4248:12 (Bryantville Realty Co. Inc. *vs.* Earle W. Newton, 1956), 4254:289 (partial release, 1956), 4256:196 (partial release, 1956), 4256:197 (1956), and 4377:242 (discharge, 1957).

44 Essex County Deeds 4352:180 (Raymond J. Connor *vs.* Earle W. Newton, 1957) and 4379:535 (discharge, 1957).

45 Essex County Deeds 4383:11 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Anna M. McGraw, 1957), 4383:12 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Anna M. McGraw, 1957), 4383:13 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Anna M. McGraw, 1957), 4383:14 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Anna M. McGraw, 1957), 4383:15 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Anna M. McGraw, 1957), and 4383:16 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Anna M. McGraw, 1957).

46 Essex County Deeds 4483:153 (Earle W. and Josephine A. Newton to Evelyn Pescosolido, 1958) and 4483:154 (Evelyn Pescosolido to Haverhill Savings Bank, mortgage, 1958).

47 United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey, 8:158:9; United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Montclair, Essex County, New Jersey, 1:77:6; United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Newton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 377:4; United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Newton,

Figure 6.7. Evelyn Bulkeley, 1928.[48]

Newton, Massachusetts.[49] He was the son of Bernardo and Angelina (Razzini) Pescosolido, was born on January 21, 1911 in Worcester, Massachusetts, and died on August 8, 2001 in Ipswich, Massachusetts.[50] The Pescosolidos had five children: William Bulkeley Pescosolido (born in 1932),[51] Barbara Razzini Pescosolido (born ca.1934),[52] Carl Albert Pescosolido Jr. (born in 1936),[53]

Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 9:427:1; United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Ipswich, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:218:73; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #022309990; "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #022309990; obituary, "Evelyn Pescosolido," *Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle*, July 12, 2001, 6; obituary, "Evelyn Pescosolido," *Palm Beach Post* [Palm Beach, FL], July 11, 2001; and Findagrave.com, memorial #71815281.

48 Dormont High School, *The Torch, Vol. 7* (Dormont, PA: 1928), 17.

49 "Harvard Star Was Wed in 1931," *Boston Herald*, April 25, 1933, 1; "Harvard Athlete Secretly Married," *Springfield Republican* [Springfield, MA], April 25, 1933, 2; "Overnight News in a Nutshell," *Worcester Evening Gazette* [Worcester, MA], April 25, 1933, 18; and "Massachusetts, U.S., Marriage Index, 1901–1955 and 1966–1970" (2013) 15:81, 44:63. Their marriage, which took place while he was an undergraduate football star at Harvard, was kept a secret until the news of it and the existence of their infant son broke on the front page of the *Herald*: "While the marriage was known to Harvard athletic authorities and close friends, the majority of the Harvard student body were unaware of it. The university has no rules concerning marriage of undergraduates and Pescosolido will complete his college course in June."

50 United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Newton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 2:363:3; United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Newton, 9:366:18; obituary, "Carl A. Pescosolido," *Boston Globe*, August 10, 2001, https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/carl-pescosolido-obituary?id=28398919; "Massachusetts, U.S., Death Index, 1970–2003" (2005), #043848; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, 1295; "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840–1915" (2013), 1911:Worcester; "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #023013655; "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #023-013655; and Findagrave.com, memorial #71814560.

51 "Harvard Star Was Wed in 1931," *Boston Herald*, April 25, 1933, 1 (December 30); and "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #041269011 (December 31).

52 United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Newton, Massachusetts, 9:427:1.

53 "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007" (2015), #015308055.

Richard John Van Cleaf Pescosolido (born in 1938)[54] and Carol Elizabeth ("Dede") Pescosolido (born in 1939).[55]

Carl Pescosolido made his career in the oil and gasoline industry. He spent much of that career with Gulf Oil, starting in their Boston office by 1935 where his father-in-law was already working.[56] Carl and Evelyn lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1934 and 1935 (Carl having graduated with the Harvard Class of 1934), in Newton from 1936 to 1943, and Hamilton from 1944 to 1948.[57] They lived briefly in New Ipswich, New Hampshire where they already had a summer residence,[58] before moving to Ipswich, Massachusetts

Continued on p. 243

54 "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014" (2014), #020301862; and "Virginia, U.S., Marriage Records, 1936–2014," online database, Ancestry.com, 2015, 1963:39610.

55 United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Newton, Massachusetts, 9:427:1.

56 Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Newton Directory, 1932* (Boston: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1932), 275; Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Boston Directory, 1935* (Boston: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1935), 1479; "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947" (2011), Massachusetts, 1295 (Carl Albert Pescosolido); and *Ibid.*, Pennsylvania, U2519 (William Van Cleaf Bulkeley).

57 Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Newton Directory* (1934):526, (1936):443, (1938):493; Sampson & Murdock Company, *The Boston Directory* (1935):1479, (1936):1836, (1937):1864, (1938):1870; R. L. Polk, *The Boston Directory, 1939* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1939), 1473, (1940):1744, (1941):1770, (1942):1782, (1943):1633; R. L. Polk, *Polk's Newton City Directory, 1940* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1939), 464; United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Newton, Massachusetts, 9:427:1; Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1943):606, 746, 777, (1946):617, (1947):626, 859, 894, (1948):628; R. L. Polk, *Polk's Boston City Directory, 1944* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1944), 1349, (1945):1381; H. A. Manning, *Manning's Haverhill, Merrimac Directory, For Year Beginning March 1946* (Springfield, MA: H. A. Manning Co., 1946), 246; and H. A. Manning, *Manning's Haverhill and Groveland Directory, For Year Beginning March 1948* (Springfield, MA: H. A. Manning Co., 1948), 354Q. During the Hamilton years, the Pescosolidos lived at 675 Bay Road, which at the time was known as Main Street.

58 "New Ipswich," *Nashua Telegraph* [Nashua, NH], July 6, 1949, 4: "Mr and Mrs Carl Pescosolido will move shortly to their new home in Ipswich, Mass. Their farm here will be occupied by Mr. Pescosolido's brother. While living here Mrs Carl Pescosolido was the originator of the Annual Street Fair and many other profitable social affairs." Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1949), 625, (1950):628, (1951):634.

Daughter Dede Austin recalls that Evelyn led a fundraising campaign to build a community playground and swimming pool in New Ipswich. Carol ("Dede") Austin, interview with Robert O. Corcoran, February 9, 2023, at 26 Maple Street, Wenham.

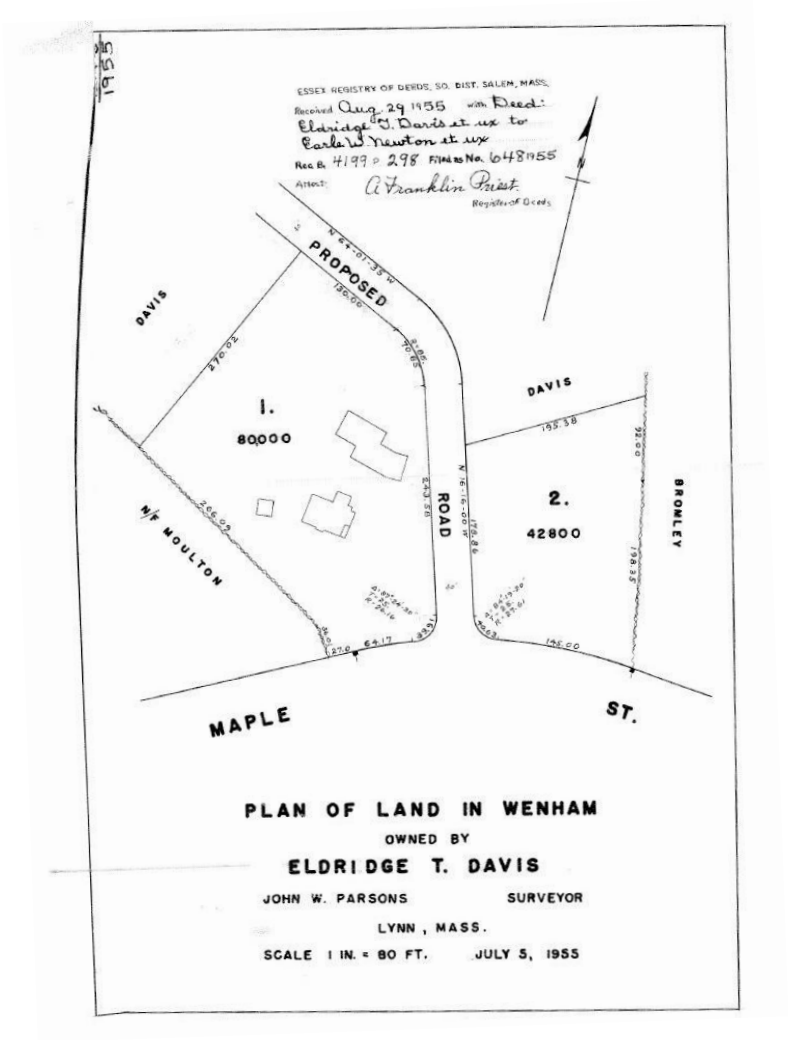

Figure 6.8. 1955 site plan showing the house, North Kimball Barn and West Kimball Barn.[59]

59 Essex County Deeds Plan 4199:298 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Owned by Eldridge T. Davis," 1955). For the North Kimball Barn and the West Kimball Barn, see Appendix I.

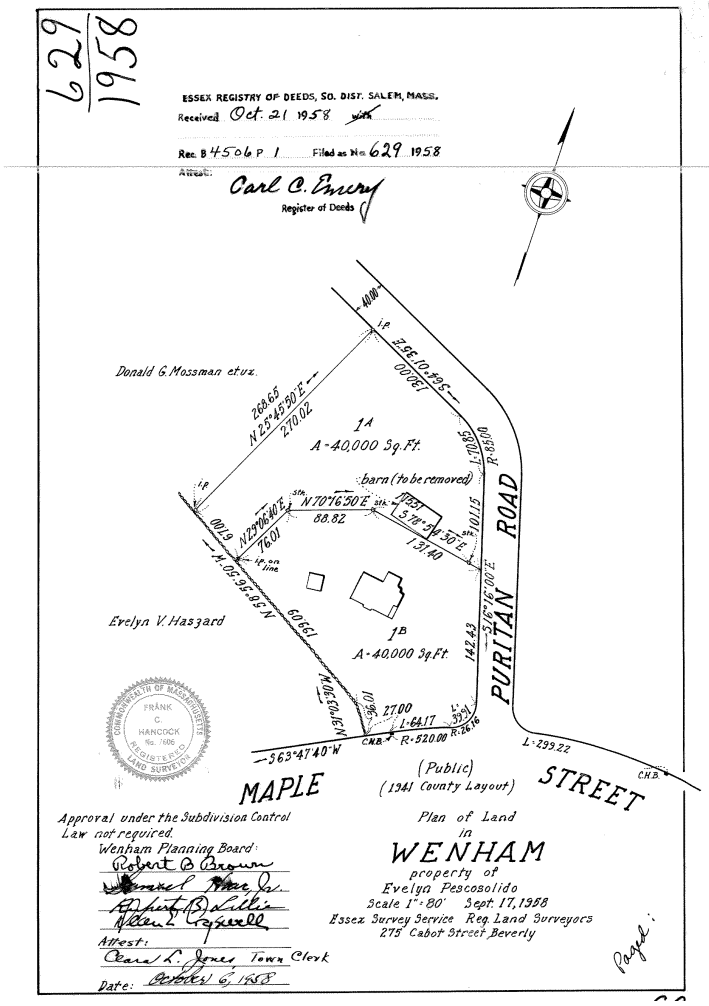

Figure 6.9. 1958 site plan showing the house, North Kimball Barn (with reduced footprint compared to 1955), West Kimball Barn, and Pescosolido's subdivision of the house lot.[60]

60 Essex County Deeds Plan 1958:629 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Evelyn Pescosolido," 1958).

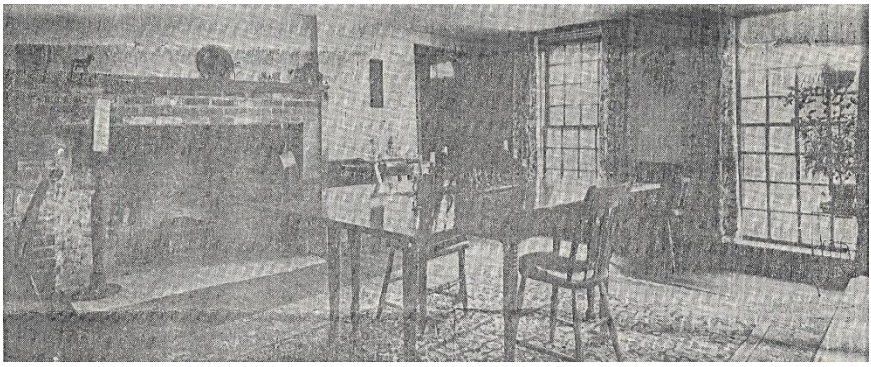

Figure 6.10. The ground floor southwest room, 1962. Evelyn Pescosolido used the southwest room as her dining room. A newspaper reporter described the room as a combination of rough white plaster and natural pine, with documentary-print dark brown and white draperies. An Oriental rug covers much of the floor. This view shows a table and three unmatched chairs (one of which, with arms, is against the wall between the windows), all of which appear to be of 19th-century vintage.[61]

61 1962 photograph by Richard J. Bielinski; in Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q. Although many of Bielinski's original photographs are in the collection of the Boston Public Library, the original for this one has yet to be located.

Figure 6.11. The ground floor southwest room, *ca*.1962. The group has gathered to celebrate Dede Pescosolido's birthday; a cake is visible on the table in the foreground. Dede describes the room as having been decorated in "faded blues." The front door to the house is visible in the background.[62]

62 Unidentified photographer. Courtesy of Carol ("Dede") Austin, Danvers.

Figure 6.12. North wall of the ground floor southwest room, 2022.[63] The room is currently used as the dining room. The dining table has been moved out of the camera's range in this and the following views.

63 December 30, 2022 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The wall color is Benjamin Moore "Country Redwood."

Figure 6.13. East wall of the ground floor southwest room, 2022. With the exception of the flooring, bricks in the interior of the fireplace, and perhaps the hearth, all viewable building material is from Evelyn Pescosolido's renovation of the room.[64]

64 December 30, 2022 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. It's possible that the hearth predates Pescosolido's renovation.

Figure 6.14. Evelyn Pescosolido, 1962.[65]

65 1962 photograph by Richard J. Bielinski; in Virginia Bohlin, "Fire Ravaged Room A Stern Reminder," *Boston Traveler*, November 20, 1962, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q. Although many of Bielinski's original photographs are in the collection of the Boston Public Library, the original for this one has yet to be located.

by 1950.[66] The Pescosolidos filed for divorce in 1955,[67] after which he continued to live in Ipswich while she lived in Newburyport.[68]

Evelyn's Public Life

Pescosolido appeared repeatedly in Boston newspapers' society pages, for both her social and her fundraising activities. She sponsored the debut her daughter Dede in 1957[69] and was a member of the social committee of the Manchester Bath and Tennis Club.[70] She helped organize fundraising events for Christ Church in South Hamilton and Ascension Memorial Church in Ipswich.[71] She was a founding member of the Spotlighters of

66 H. A. Manning, *Manning's Haverhill and Merrimac Directory, For Year Beginning May 1950* (Springfield, MA: H. A. Manning Co., 1950), 363; H. A. Manning, *Manning's Haverhill and Groveland Directory* (1952), 379; and Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1952):634, (1954): 637.

67 Essex County Probate 25099 (Carl A. Pescosolido, divorce, 1955). The final decree came a couple years later: Essex County Deeds 4346:173 (Evelyn B. Pescosolido to Massachusetts Savings Bank, mortgage, 1957) says that she was still married. When she sold to the Ernsts in 1958 she was single.

68 Carl lived at 187 County Road, Ipswich. See R. L. Polk, *Polk's Boston City Directory* (1952): 2:2238; and R. L. Polk, *Polk's Greater Lawrence City Directory* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1958), 548, (1959):614. He endowed the Carl A. Pescosolido Chair in the Classics at Harvard College, and the Carl A. Pescosolido Library at Governor Dummer Academy; see obituary, *Boston Globe*, August 10, 2001.

Evelyn lived at 79 High Street at the corner of Wills Lane, Newburyport. See Essex County Deeds 4346:172 (Robert G. Dodge, executor, to Evelyn B. Pescosolido, 1957), 4454: 499 (Evelyn B. Pescosolido to Edward L. and Bertha W. Noyes, 1958), and 4482:105 (Evelyn B. Pescosolido to Jerome W. and Ethel B. Cross, 1958); Alison Arnold, "Social Chatter," *Boston Herald*, June 25, 1957, C19; "Miss Austin To Be Wed In Summer," *Boston Sunday Herald*, December 1, 1957, 144; "Engagement Announced," *Springfield Sunday Republican* [Springfield, MA], December 22, 1957, 5C; R. L. Polk, *Polk's Newburyport and Amesbury City Directory, Vol. LIII, 1957* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1958), 137, (1959):148; "Miss Pescosolido Engaged to Mr. Esmiol," *Boston Sunday Herald*, January 12, 1958, 33; "Miss Barbara Pescosolido Wed to Mr. Pattison Esmiol," *Boston Herald*, May 7, 1958, 28 (wedding reception held at Evelyn Pescosolido's house in Newburyport); and "Linda Clark Austin Marries Carl Albert Pescosolido Jr.," *Dallas Morning News*, July 4, 1958, 13.

69 "List of Debutantes for 1957–58 Has 169 Names," *Boston Sunday Herald*, June 9, 1957, 2:3; and Rose Walsh, "Rose Walsh Covers Deb Season Opening," *Boston Sunday Advertiser*, June 9, 1957, 27.

70 Arnold, "Social Chatter," *Boston Herald*, June 25, 1957, C19; and Arnold, "Social Chatter," *Boston Herald*, June 3, 1961, C9.

71 Arnold, "Social Chatter," *Boston Herald*, June 27, 1956, B13; Maggie Wells, "Gambling On Weather," Boston Traveler, June 27, 1956, A31; Arnold, "Society," *Boston Sunday Herald*, July 8, 1956, 19; Arnold, "Social Chatter," *Boston Sunday Herald*, May 3, 1957, C37; "Ascension

Hamilton, an amateur theatrical group that produced plays to raise funds for local charities.[72] She was co-chair of an open house wedding tour sponsored by the Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club.[73] And she opened the Thomas Kilham House for a Christmastime house tour, "Follow the Gleam," in 1962 to raise funds for the Community Garden Club of Hamilton and Wenham.[74]

During her Newburyport years she worked as a clerk at the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank, "but," recalled her daughter, "she eventually was practically running the place."[75] During her Wenham years she worked as an office secretary in Rowley, Massachusetts.[76] Pescosolido was an avid gardener, played the piano, and wrote a number of articles for the *Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle*.[77]

Final Subdivision of the House Lot and Renovations of 1958–1959

When Evelyn Pescosolido bought the Thomas Kilham House, its lot was just under two acres. She immediately subdivided the house lot, selling the northern half just two months after acquiring it (Figures 6.8-6.9).[78] She also

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Memorial Church To Hold Fair in Ipswich," *Boston Sunday Herald*, August 17, 1958, B10; and "Annual Village Fair To Aid Ipswich Church," *Boston Sunday Herald*, August 14, 1960, 1:25.

72 Pescosolido directed *My Sister Eileen*, with her daughter Dede playing the lead. Arnold, "Social Chatter," *Boston Herald*, October 31, 1957, 33; Wells, "Socialite in New Play," *Boston Traveler*, November 14, 1957, C38; "Spotlighter Play Marks Anniversary," *Boston Herald*, April 6, 1960, A21; Arnold, "Spotlighter's [*sic*] Play to Benefit Alleys at Community House," *Boston Herald*, April 16, 1960, C15; and Austin (2023).

73 Arnold, "An Open House Wedding Tour By Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club," *Boston Herald Traveler*, May 6, 1970, 30 (a tour of homes and Christ Church, South Hamilton, featuring bridal fashion and wedding decorations).

74 Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q.

75 R. L. Polk, *Polk's Newburyport and Amesbury City Directory* (1958), 137, (1959):148. Austin (2023).

76 Price & Lee Company, *Beverly, Hamilton-Wenham Directory, 1962* (New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1962), 929, 949; Price & Lee Company, *Price & Lee's Beverly Suburban City Directory, 1964* (New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1964), 863, 884; Price & Lee Company, *Price & Lee's Beverly City Directory, 1966* (New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1966), 881, 903; Price & Lee Company, *Price & Lee's Beverly City Directory, 1968* (New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1968), Wenham directory 42, Wenham numerical directory 6; and Price & Lee Company, *Price & Lee's Beverly Suburban City Directory, 1969* (New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1969), 229, 336.

77 Austin (2023).

78 Essex County Deeds 4530:40 (Evelyn Pescosolido to Edward R. and Shirley N. Ernst, 1958). Her house lot having been reduced in size, she refinanced her mortgage; see Essex County Deeds 4582:223 (Evelyn Pescosolido to Haverhill Savings Bank, mortgage, 1959). Six months later, after the fire of 1959, she refinanced her mortgage from $14,000 to $16,000; see

began renovation of the house,[79] starting with the current-day ground floor southwest room (Figures 6.10-6.13) and the ground floor northwest room.

The work in the southwest room entailed today's fireplace surround, baseboards, wainscoting, chair rails, window and door casings, wallboard and ceiling. The project also entailed replacement of the bricks surrounding the fireplace opening, and perhaps also the replacement of the hearth. The room's two doors are antique. They might be the ones that were *in situ* when Pescosolido bought the house—but it should be noted that (although they are very similar) they do not match each other, and both have been pieced-out to accommodate taller door openings.

The ground floor northwest room had been a pantry when Pescosolido bought the house. She converted it to a kitchen.[80] The adjacent room, *i.e.*, the room to the north of the chimney—which had been the kitchen as late as Huldah Kimball's time and probably later—had its fireplace walled up at some point prior to Pescosolido's purchase. She referred to the room as her den and kept her television there.[81]

The Fire of 1959 and Post-Fire Renovation of 1959–1960

On May 3, 1959 a fire broke out in the den, probably caused by faulty wiring of the television or a table lamp. The fire spread to the second floor room immediately above it. Much of the house was damaged by smoke and required extension renovations. Soot from the fire accumulated in the attic under the north-facing pane of the roof and remains there. A newspaper account of the fire appears in Appendix P and a newspaper interview of Pescosolido appears in Appendix Q.

Essex County Deeds 4641:403 (Evelyn Pescosolido to Haverhill Savings Bank, mortgage, 1960).

79 "200-Year-old Wenham House is Swept by $20,000 Blaze," *Salem Evening News* [Salem, MA], May 4, 1959, 2, a transcription of which is in Appendix P: "The 18th century farmhouse was purchased last year by Mrs. Pescosolido who moved in late in the fall after making extensive renovations."

80 Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q. Austin (2023). Austin recalled that the oven was along the middle of the east wall, and the refrigerator was in the northeast corner. Austin also recalled that, prior to Pescosolido's construction of the breezeway, there was an exterior door roughly opposite the current-day door that opens to the garage.

81 Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q. Austin (2023). See also page 57 of this text. Local historian Rupert B. Lillie, who toured the house as early as 1950, did not mention a fireplace in the room when he wrote a description of the house, which indicates that the room's fireplace had been walled up; see Lillie, "Killam-Fairfield-Kimball House" (1977).

The post-fire renovations were significant, and took until early 1960 to complete:[82]

1. The kitchen's walls and ceiling were replaced (Figure 6.17).
2. The ground floor room to the north of the chimney (where the fire started, Figures 6.16-6.22) was rebuilt: The current-day fireplace, fireplace surround, hearth, shelves, cupboards, baseboards, chair rails, window and door casings, wallboard, ceiling, floor, walls, studs and joists are replacements. Although the door to the back hall is antique, given the extent of the fire's damage it is very likely that the current door is a replacement (perhaps one of the two doors that appear in Figure 2.28).
3. The back hall's stairs were rebuilt and their direction reversed; the hall's walls, ceiling, door casings, baseboards, floor, walls, studs and joists were replaced (Figure 6.23).
4. The closet that had been underneath the south end of the stairs was moved to the north end (the direction of the stairs having been reversed) and was converted to a powder room (Figure 3.24).
5. The lean-to along the north wall of the house (Figure 4.47) was removed.
6. A beam in the ground floor northeast room was replaced (Figure 6.24) and the plaster on the walls and ceiling was replaced (Figure 6.28).
7. The wall that had separated the ground floor northeast room from the ground floor southeast room (Figures 2.28, 6.26-6.28) was removed, the doorway connecting the back hall with the ground floor southeast room (Figure 2.28) was closed off, and the plaster of the southeast room's walls and ceiling was replaced (Figure 6.28).

82 The house was empty in January 1960 when the town compiled its annual street list; see Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1960), 12.

Figure 6.15. Scope of the Post-Fire Renovation, 1959–1960.

8. The second floor room to the north of the chimney (Figures 6.16-6.18, 6.29-6.30) was rebuilt: The current-day fireplace surround, hearth, baseboards, chair rails, window and door casings, wallboard, ceiling, floor, joists, and north and east walls[83] are replacements. The doors are antique.
9. The baseboards, window and door casings, wallboard and ceiling of the second floor landing of the back stairs were replaced. Given its location, it's likely that the guest bathroom was significantly damaged if not gutted, but removal of its flooring and walls is needed for confirmation.
10. The second floor northeast room, like the room immediately beneath it, was probably gutted, and it's probable that the current baseboards, wainscoting, chair rails, window casing and cupboard/bookcase unit are from the 1959–1960 program (and not from a subsequent renovation).

Continued on p. 262

83 The premade bookcases along the west wall were installed in 2000. When the master bathroom was renovated in 2003, it was discovered that there used to be a door connecting this room and the bathroom, located opposite this room's door to the back stairs' landing.

Figure 6.16. North-facing wall of the house in the aftermath of the 1959 fire.[84] An antique beam is lying on the ground, along with other pieces of antique framing, pieces of modern lumber and a pile of ashes or dirt. On the ground floor the current-day kitchen and the room to the north of the chimney are visible, along with a stack pipe that drained the master bathroom. On the second floor a 6-over-6 window and the stack pipe venting the guest bathroom are visible.

84 Unidentified photographer. The photograph is in the possession of the current owners of the house, who received it when they purchased the house.

Figure 6.17. The kitchen and the room to the north of the chimney in the aftermath of the 1959 fire.[85] Moving from right to left: The south wall of the current-day kitchen is visible and is finished with whitewashed horizontal boards. The wall that had been between the current-day kitchen and Pescosolido's den is gone; the post to the right of the modern wall studs marks where that wall had been, and where it was rebuilt. The post appears to have a shiplap joint near the level of the ground floor ceiling—and not at the 5- or 6-foot level expected of a former lean-to—demonstrating that the post was replaced when the second floor was expanded in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.[86] The fireplace inside Pescosolido's den is visible. Lath boards, *sans* their plaster, run horizontally above it. Most of the wall between Pescosolido's den and the back hall is missing. The floor and ceiling are missing.

85 Unidentified photographer; magnification of Figure 6.16.

86 For use of a shiplap joint at the former northwest corner of the house, see footnote 104 in Chapter 3 (Volume 2). For expansion of the second floor by 1809, see pages 175-178 in Chapter 3.

Figure 6.18. The second floor in the aftermath of the 1959 fire.[87] Moving from right to left: The lower part of a diagonal wind brace is visible, along with clapboard siding and a 6-over-6 window. The fireplace in the room immediately above Pescosolido's den is visible, offset to the left of the fireplace in the room below. The floor is missing. The room's east wall is largely intact and shows that it had a chair rail, almost all the plaster above it still in place while the plaster below it has been removed. The east wall's door is in place.

87 Unidentified photographer; magnification of Figure 6.16.

Figure 6.19. Evelyn Pescosolido with her children and grandchildren, Christmas 1964. The group is in northeast corner of the ground floor north room, the room she referred to as her den, Evelyn sitting in front of the window. There is a large panel on the east wall that appears to open to what would have been a shallow cubbyhole; that panel was replaced by vertically aligned boards in the 1970s or 1980s.[88]

88 Unidentified photographer. Courtesy of Carol ("Dede") Austin, Danvers. Dede is sitting to Evelyn's left, her arm stretched out in Evelyn's direction.

Figure 6.20. Carl Jr. ("Skip") and Dede Pescosolido, dressed in appropriate attire for their mother's *bierstube* party, April 1962. This view shows the large panel on the east wall of the ground floor north room. The shelf that is visible in Figure 6.21 is absent.[89]

89 Unidentified photographer. Courtesy of Carol ("Dede") Austin, Danvers. A *bierstube* is an *Oktoberfest*-like party.

Figure 6.21. East wall of the ground floor north room, 2023.[90]

90 January 10, 2023 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The wall color is Benjamin Moore "Sugar Cookie."

Figure 6.22. South wall of the ground floor north room, 2023.[91] Thanks to a brief description by local historian Rupert Lillie, we know that this fireplace had been walled up, and its surround was gone by the time of his first visit in 1950. Consequently, it's an open question whether the cupboards to the left of the fireplace (hidden in this view by the door to the back hall) or the shelves to the right of it are reproductions *vs*. embellishments.

91 January 10, 2023 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

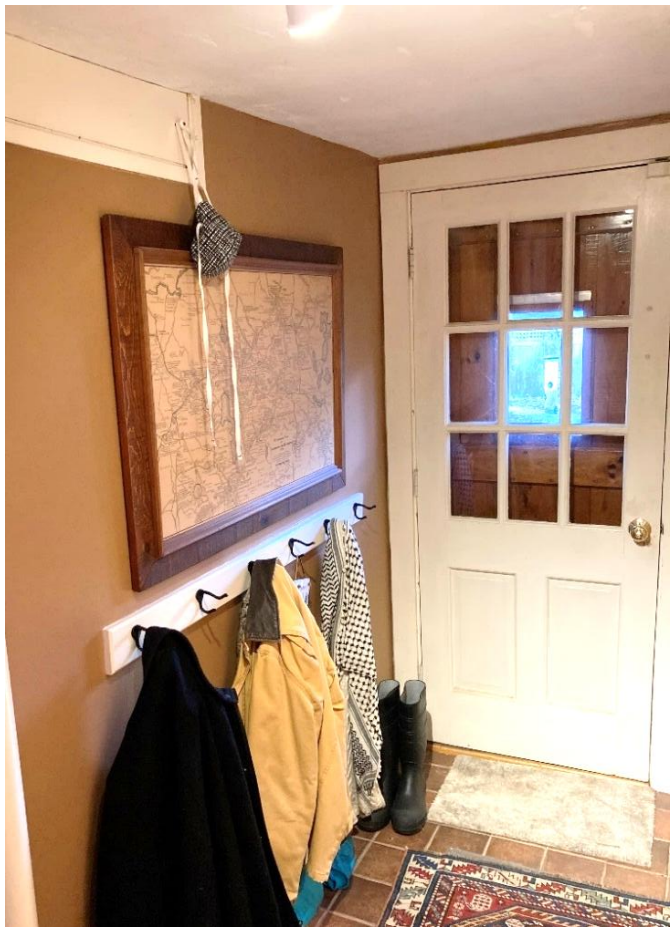

Figure 6.23. Back hall, 2023. When the back hall was rebuilt in 1959–1960, the removable panel adjacent to the ceiling was installed so that people could see the charred surface of the otherwise-concealed antique timber.[92]

92 January 1, 2023 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. A COVID-era mask hangs from the panel's knob. The framed map, a copy of Rupert Lillie's "A Pictorial Map of Wenham and Environs, 1776," has hung in this spot since 1976. Dorothy "Dot" Warren hand-colored some

Figure 6.24. Junction of the framing of the ground floor northeast and southeast rooms, 2023.[93] The beam that was originally in this location had been the end girt for the lean-to that Josiah Fairfield added to the house in the eighteenth century. It was replaced with the beam shown here after the fire of 1959.

of the buildings: Orange to denote seventeenth-century vintage and blue to denote eighteenth century. The tile floor was installed in 2008 by Joao "John" Alves of Billerica, Massachusetts, the prior flooring being industrial carpet over plywood. The wall color is Benjamin Moore "Penny."

93 January 1, 2023 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

Figure 6.25. The ground floor southeast room, 1963. The group has gathered to celebrate the engagement of Richard Pescosolido and Leonora Wikswo. The sofa is along the east wall of the room.[94]

94 Unidentified photographer. Courtesy of Carol ("Dede") Austin, Danvers. Dede is standing at right.

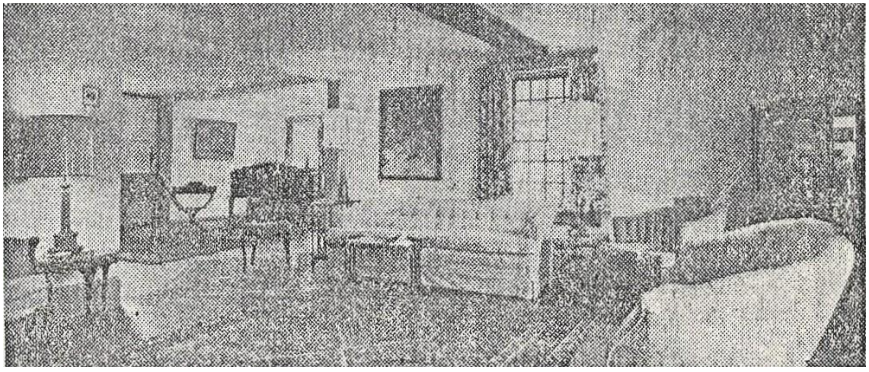

Figure 6.26. The ground floor northeast and southeast rooms, 1962. Evelyn Pescosolido used the northeast room as a den and the southeast room as a living room. A newspaper reporter described the living room as a combination of rough white plaster with Williamsburg blue woodwork and documentary-print blue and white draperies, the furniture a mix of contemporary, French provincial, Victorian and 16th-century Italian pieces.[95]

95 1962 photograph by Richard J. Bielinski; in Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q. Although many of Bielinski's original photographs are in the collection of the Boston Public Library, the original for this one has yet to be located.

Figure 6.27. The ground floor northeast and southeast rooms, 2023.[96] With a few exceptions, the decorative arts collection focuses on items made in Eastern Massachusetts between the late seventeenth century and the early nineteenth century.

96 January 10, 2023 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The wall color in both rooms is Farrow & Ball "Matchstick."

Figure 6.28. The ground floor northeast and southeast rooms in the aftermath of the 1959 fire.[97] The wall that had separated the two rooms has been removed. The ceiling has also been removed (temporarily) and reveals the impressive size of the summer beam. The white line along the beam is a plaster mark and shows that the current ceiling height is lower than it had been when the ceiling was originally plastered. The east wall of the southeast room is covered with lath boards, the plaster having been removed; the window casing remains in this location.

97 Unidentified photographer. The photograph is in the possession of the current owners of the house.

In Figure 6.28 the floors of the ground floor southeast and northeast rooms are covered by what appears to be plywood or rosin paper. This fact, combined with the facts that (1) the current floorboards in these rooms are remarkably narrow compared with floorboards in other rooms and (2) are stained a different color than other floors, indicates that the current floorboards are replacements. Given the absence of flooring in much of the attic, one wonders whether the current flooring in these rooms was relocated from the attic.

Daughter Dede Austin recalled (2023) that Evelyn had purchased a pair of andirons that arrived a few days after the fire. Evelyn sarcastically displayed the andirons outside, in front of the house, as a metaphor for the house itself as fuel for a fire.

The fireplace surround installed on the second floor was not a reproduction of what had been there. Local historian Rupert B. Lillie (1907–1996), who toured the house as early as 1950, described that fireplace surround as similar to those in the second floor southeast and southwest rooms, referring to its "dentil molding."[98] *Because the second-floor fireplace surround is not a reproduction, one has to question how much of Pescosolido's post-fire renovation work was restoration* vs. *embellishment*. Speaking generally of her renovation program, Pescosolido told a newspaper reporter "I changed things around that I felt could be improved. But fundamentally it is quite the same."[99]

None of the ceilings on the second floor are antique plaster. It's a reasonable assumption that all were replaced by Pescosolido—although it's an open question (with the exception of the north room and the northeast room) which if any were done prior to the renovation of 1959–1960.

Pescosolido's Expansion of the House and Use of the Rooms

Evelyn Pescosolido lived in the Thomas Kilham House from 1958 to 1970 (staying temporarily in her ex-husband's house in Ipswich while she

98 Lillie, "Killam-Fairfield-Kimball House" (1977). Lillie erroneously referred to "dentil molding" when describing the fireplace surrounds in the second floor southeast and southwest rooms: Those surrounds do not incorporate teeth-shaped dentils, but rather incorporate series of reveals, steps and ovolo moldings. His use of the term "dentil molding" seems, therefore, to have been done in a generic fashion.

99 Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q.

repaired the damage of the fire of 1959[100]). At least three of her adult children lived with her long enough to leave their mark in the town's records: Her daughter Dede was living with her at the start of 1962, and her son Richard was also living with her for part of that year. Son Carl Jr. and his wife Linda (Austin) Pescosolido were living with her at the start of 1968.[101]

According to daughter Dede, the garage had already been built by the time Pescosolido bought the property. Pescosolido added a breezeway that connected the garage with the kitchen; the breezeway was roughly 6 to 8 feet wide, was "all windows" on its east and west walls, and had a sliding glass door on its west wall.[102] At some point between 1962 and 1966 she removed the porch on the east side of the house and replaced it with a greenhouse (Figures 6.33-6.34).[103] In 1968 she replaced the house's cesspool with a septic system.[104]

Pescosolido used the ground floor southwest room as her dining room (Figures 6.10-6.11); the ground floor northwest room as her kitchen; the ground floor north room as a den (Figures 6.19-6.20); the ground floor southeast room as a living room (Figures 6.25-6.26); and the ground floor northeast room as an extension of her living room. The second floor southeast room (Figure 6.31)[105] and the second floor northeast room were guest bed-

Continued on p. 270

100 Austin (2023).

101 Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1959):12, (1960):12, (1961):12, (1962):13, (1963):13, (1964): 14, (1965):14, (1966):14, (1967):14, (1968):15, (1969):15 and (1970):15. Price & Lee Company, *Beverly, Hamilton-Wenham Directory* (1962), 929, 949; Price & Lee Company, *Price & Lee's Beverly Suburban City Directory* (1964):863, 884, (1969):229, 336; Price & Lee Company, *Price & Lee's Beverly City Directory* (1966):881, 903; and Price & Lee Company, *Price & Lee's Beverly City Directory* (1968), Wenham directory 42, Wenham numerical directory 6. Town of Wenham, *Valuation List and State, County and Town Tax of the Town of Wenham, For the Year 1962* (Beverly, MA: Quality Press of Beverly, 1962), 6, 47; and Town of Wenham, *Valuation List, Personal Property and Real Estate Tax of the Town of Wenham, For the Year 1967* (Salem, MA: Deschamps Printing Co., 1967), 48 (in Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town and School Reports, 1965–1967*).

102 Austin (2023).

103 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1967), 48.

104 Evelyn B. Pescosolido, "Application for Private Sewerage Disposal System Permit," October 17, 1967, MS, Permitting Office, Wenham Town Hall, Wenham. The work was completed July 13, 1968. The cesspool was in the approximate location of the septic tank, in front of the garage.

105 *Salem Evening News* [Salem, MA], May 4, 1959, 2, a transcription of which is in Appendix P; and Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q. Austin (2023).

Figure 6.29. East wall of the second floor north room, 2023.[106]

106 January 10, 2023 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The wall color is Benjamin Moore "Bleeker Beige."

Figure 6.30. South wall of the second floor north room, 2023.[107] Thanks to a brief description by local historian Rupert Lillie, who toured the house as early as 1950, we know that the current fireplace surround is not a reproduction of the original pre-fire composition.

107 January 10, 2023 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

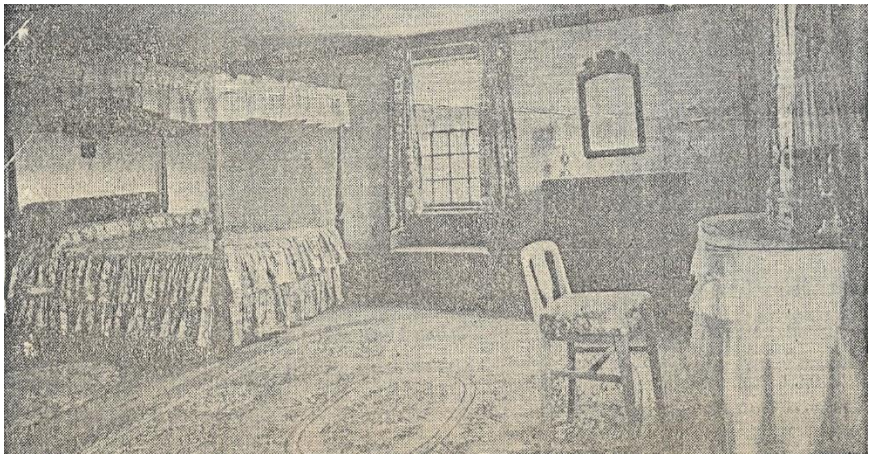

Figure 6.31. East wall of the second floor southeast room, 1962. Evelyn Pescosolido used this room as a guest bedroom. Moving from right to left: A table is placed between the two windows along the south wall. It has a small lamp on it with a pleated shade, perhaps a glass tabletop, and a fabric apron. It is accompanied by a chair with a very low back. A mirror hangs on the east wall above a chest of drawers. A bench with a very low back is placed in front of the east-facing window. The canopied bed appears to be in the Sheraton style, a small rug next to it. There is a large rug in the center of the room. The gunstock post in the southeast corner and the end girt in the east wall appear to be unpainted.[108]

108 1962 photograph by Richard J. Bielinski; in Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q. Although many of Bielinski's original photographs are in the collection of the Boston Public Library, the original for this one has yet to be located.

Figure 6.32. East wall of the second floor southeast room, 2023.[109]

109 January 10, 2023 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

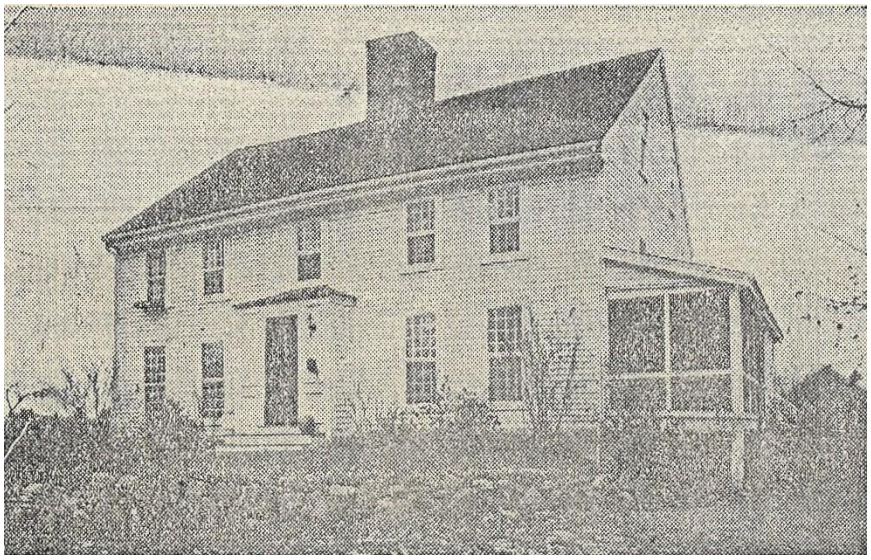

Figure 6.33. The Thomas Kilham House, 1962.[110] When compared with the 1900 photograph of the house (Figure 4.61), we see that the shutters have been removed; the porch enclosed with screening; the decorative railing removed from the roof of the front entry; a light fixture and some sort of box mounted to the right of the front door; and the area in front of the house regraded (a low retaining wall having been added). Part of the house at 1 Puritan Road is visible in the background.

110 1962 photograph by Richard J. Bielinski; in Bohlin (1962), 24, a transcription of which is in Appendix Q. Although many of Bielinski's original photographs are in the collection of the Boston Public Library, the original for this one has yet to be located.

Figure 6.34. The Thomas Kilham House, 1985. The greenhouse, which was manufactured by Lord & Burnham and added to the house by Pescosolido, was approximately 10' × 14'. It was heated and had temperature-activated vents. Its exterior door (visible in this view) was in the center of its south-facing wall. It was supported by a cinder block pony wall. A cement walkway, embedded with pieces of decorative slate, ran through the greenhouse from the exterior door to its interior door; there was no floor on either side of the walkway. The greenhouse was removed and replaced with a porch in 2008.[111]

111 1985 photograph by Anne Andrus Grady (b.1932); in Anne Grady, "First Period Survey: Solomon Kimball House" (1985). The white vertical element in the lower left-hand corner is a staple that attaches the photograph to the Massachusetts Historical Commission filing.

rooms.[112] The second floor southwest room was Evelyn's own bedroom. In 1964 her telephone number was changed from HO8-4872 to 468-4872.[113]

Daughter Dede Austin, referring to the quirkiness of old houses, recalled a joke that she and her sister Barbara had about the sloping floor in the front hallway: "If you stand here [near the threshold of the front door] you're short, but if you stand *here* [closer to the front stairs] you're tall."[114]

When asked what future owners might enjoy knowing about the house, daughter Dede Austin said (2023) "It has a wonderful hominess. It's very cozy. It's *real*."

Move to Topsfield

Pescosolido sold the house in 1970 and moved to Topsfield. Recalled daughter Dede, "I never knew why my mother moved to Topsfield. And it was a crummy house. Her Wenham house was much nicer."[115]

Dwain and Carol Smith, Owners of the House From 1970 to 1971

Dwain Baker Smith was born in 1934 in Rockport, Massachusetts, the son of Roland L. and Lena A. (Hamilton) Smith. He married Carol Lillian Crane in 1961 in Arlington, Massachusetts.[116] The daughter of Gilbert H. and

112 Austin (2023). Austin recalled that she (Dede) had used the second floor northeast room to store childhood mementos, and—in the fire of 1959—lost the love letters that her high school sweetheart had written her. She did not recall how her mother used the second floor north room.

113 Price & Lee Company, *Beverly, Hamilton-Wenham Directory* (1962), 949; and Price & Lee Company, *Price & Lee's Beverly Suburban City Directory* (1964), 884.

114 Austin (2023).

115 Essex County Deeds 5715:133 (Evelyn Pescosolido to Dwain B. and Carol C. Smith, 1970); and 5753:396 (Josephine V. Scuzzarella to Evelyn B. Pescosolido, 1971), Pescosolido already living at 91 South Main Street, Topsfield by March 1971. Austin (2023).

116 "Engagement Announcement," *Boston Sunday Herald*, September 25, 1960, 3:6; "Engagements," *Boston Sunday Herald*, September 25, 1960, 3:12; "Miss Carol Crane Bride Of Mr. Dwain Baker Smith," *Boston Sunday Herald*, November 12, 1961, 1:7; "Weddings," *Boston Sunday Herald*, November 12, 1961, 1:6; "U.S., Public Records Index, 1950–1993, Volume 1" (2010); "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Index, 1860–1870" (2013), 1931–1935:93:259. In 2022 both Dwain and Carol (Crane) Smith were living at 119 Pinehurst Road, Belmont, Massachusetts.

Lillian V. (Herald) Crane, she was born in 1938 in Malden, Massachusetts.[117] They had three children: Alison Hamilton Smith (born in 1963),[118] Jennifer Herald Smith (born in 1966)[119] and Adam Crane Smith (born in 1969).[120]

Dwain Smith was a member of the Northeastern University Class of 1956, and received an L.L.B. from Boston University Law School in 1959 where he had been a member of the Law Review.[121] During the years prior to their purchase of the Thomas Kilham House, Smith practiced law in Rockport, serving on the Rockport Board of Trade (1962), serving as Town Counsel (1964), and running unsuccessfully for the state legislature (1964).[122] Carol (Crane) Smith, a member of the Smith College Class of 1959, was an active member of the North Shore Smith College Club.[123]

The Smiths moved into the Thomas Kilham House in 1970, prior to their purchase of it from Evelyn Pescosolido in September of that year. But they lived in it for only a few months, the house being vacant when the town compiled the street list for January 1971. They owned the house for thirteen months, selling it at a 3% loss ($55,500 *vs.* their purchase price of $57,000) in

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117 "Miss Carol Crane Bride Of Mr. Dwain Baker Smith" (1961); and "Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Index, 1860–1870" (2013), 1936–1940:70:226.

118 "U.S., Public Records Index, 1950–1993, Volume 1" (2010).

119 *Ibid.*

120 Obituary, "Adam Crane Smith," *Lowell Sun* [Lowell, MA] September 14, 2021, https://-www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/lowellsun/name/adam-smith-obituary?-id= 22718926; obituary, "Adam C. Smith," *Gloucester Times* [Gloucester, MA], September 15, 2021, https://obituaries.gloucestertimes.com/obituary/adam-smith-1083249644; and Findagrave.com, memorial #232054652.

121 "Rockport Cafe Aide Wins Study Grant," *Boston Traveler*, October 19, 1959, 36; and "Miss Carol Crane Bride Of Mr. Dwain Baker Smith" (1961).

122 "Our Town: Rockport," *Boston Traveler*, October 14, 1959, 58; "Sen. Kennedy's Brother, B. U. Dean's Daughter Pass Bar," *Boston American*, October 22, 1959, 18; "Successful Bar Candidates," *Boston Traveler*, October 22, 1959, 17; "Rotary Fellowships to 3 Bay Staters," *Boston Traveler*, December 15, 1959, 24; "Gloucester Trade Meeting Asks Blue Law Relaxation," *Boston Herald*, February 3, 1962, 18; "Big Race Seen for Essex Seat," *Boston Sunday Herald*, April 12, 1964, 1:39; "House," *Boston Record American*, September 11, 1964, 47; "State Legislature Nominees," *Boston Record American*, September 12, 1964, 8; "State House Notes," *Springfield Union* [Springfield, MA], October 8, 1964, 5; Arthur Sullivan, "Sportsmen Watch Bill On Natural Resources," *Boston Record American*, October 26, 1964, 42; and "Vote Tuesday Will Decide Fate of 240 House Seats," *Boston Sunday Herald*, November 1, 1964, 1:54.

123 "Miss Carol Crane Bride Of Mr. Dwain Baker Smith" (1961); Arnold, "Social Chatter," *Boston Herald Traveler*, October 17, 1970, 32; Arnold, "Social Chatter," *Boston Herald Traveler*, March 26, 1971, 26; Walsh, "Artists' Evening Opens Unique Program," *Boston Record American*, October 26, 1971, 64; and Arnold, "John Jay Ski Film To Aid Smith College," *Boston Sunday Herald Traveler*, October 31, 1971, 6:6.

November 1971.[124] Five months later they bought a $90,000 house on Penzance Road, Rockport, overlooking the ocean.[125]

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Development of Mayflower Drive, 1961–1972

Once the Tacona Company had sold its lots along Puritan Road (Figure 6.5) they had what they thought was 22.7 acres left over to the southwest. The company sold this remaining property to Edmund F. (1927–2015) and Mary B. (Palm) Trahan (b.1928) in 1961. The Trahans, in turn, developed a plan for "Puritan Park" (Figure 6.37) and sold half of its constituent lots between 1966 and 1969.[126]

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124 Essex County Deeds 5715:133 (Evelyn Pescosolido to Dwain B. and Carol C. Smith, 1970), 5715:134 (Dwain B. and Carol C. Smith to Beverly Savings Bank, mortgage, 1970), 5824:397 (Dwain B. and Carol C. Smith to Robert W. and Nancy M. Hatch, 1971), 5826:605 (Beverly Savings Bank, discharge, 1971); and Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1970):15, (1971): 15.

125 Essex County Deeds 5861:738 (Duncan C. and Lela M. Stephens to Carol Crane Smith, 1972); and Essex County Deeds Plan 5836:732 ("Plan of Land, Lands End, Rockport, Mass., Property of Duncan C. Stephens, 1971).

See also "New Bank Vice Presidents," *Boston Herald Traveler*, December 2, 1972, 14 for his promotion to Vice President, Trust Division, Bank of Boston in 1972. See also "New England firms promote executives," *Boston Herald American*, May 2, 1978, 13 and Jib Ellis, "Ad notes: Creamer adds on in Hartford," *Boston Herald American*, July 16, 1979, 18 for his promotion to President, Lawrence Savings Bank in 1978.

126 Essex County Deeds 4789:392 (Tacona Company Inc. to Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan, 1961); and Essex County Deeds Plan 106:30 ("Subdivision Plan in Wenham, Puritan Park," 1966). See also Essex County Deeds 5392:654 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Clark S. Sears, Trustee, 1966). During this period the Trahans sold the properties corresponding to 23-26, 28, 29 and 31 Mayflower Drive; see Essex County Deeds 5374:218 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Frank S. and Mary F. Martin, 1966), 5494:621 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Leah H. and Henry J. Ramini, 1967), 5497:756 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Isabel F. Bates, 1967), 5500:790 (Edmund F. and May B. Trahan to Kenneth J. and Nancy M. Kessaris, 1967), 5537:463 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Isabel F. Bates, 1968), 5551:783 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Isabel F. Bates, 1968), and 5658:75 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to William J. and Catherine Saris, 1969). For Edmund Trahan, see Findagrave.com, memorial #211697181; for Mary (Palm) Trahan, see "New York, New York, U.S., Birth Index, 1910–1965," online database, Ancestry.com, 2017, #9899.

Problem was, the 22.7 acres that the Tacona Company sold to the Trahans included a little over six acres that were actually owned by the Burnett family.[127] Although the title history for the land in question was clear, the description of its boundaries was less so—and the Tacona Company's lawyers didn't do all their homework, apparently overlooking a 1918 map[128] that would have provided clarity. As a consequence, the Tacona Company mistook part of what had been the Kimball family's land in Leach's Swamp with abutting land owned by the Burnetts (Figures 6.35-6.36).

The matter was resolved by the Trahans and the Burnetts in 1972 and an agreement reached that the correct relevant boundary between their properties coincided with an antique stone wall.[129] But some of the former Kimball family land in Leach's Swamp was ownerless, the Tacona Company having been dissolved a few years earlier. With no one paying taxes on it, the "leftover" portion of the Leach's Swamp lot became town-owned land.[130]

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127 Essex County Deeds 5732:163 (Robert M. and Eva M. Burnett *vs.* Edmund F. Trahan *et al.*, 1970).

128 Essex County Deeds Plan 2390:48 ("Division of Woodlot in Wenham Between Solomon Kimball & John K. Kent," 1918).

129 Essex County Deeds 5855:674 (Robert M. and Eva M. Burnett to William J. and Catherine Saris, 1972), 5855:675 (Robert M. and Eva M. Burnett to Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan, 1972), 5855:676 (Robert M. and Eva M. Burnett to Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan, easement, 1972), 5855:677 (Robert M. and Eva M. Burnett to Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan, 1972), 5855:679 (agreement to boundary line, 1972), 5855:687 (release of *lis pendens*, 1972), 5855:688 (partial discharge of attachment, 1972), 5858:102 (Robert M. and Eva M. Burnett *vs.* Edmund F. Trahan *et al.*, final decree, 1972); and Essex County Deeds Plan 123:17 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Drawn for Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1972).

The Trahans subsequently sold the properties corresponding to 30, 32, 33, 36, 38, and 40 Mayflower Drive; see Essex County Deeds 5855:681 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Trahan Development Corporation, 1972), 5969:668 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Trahan Development Corporation, 1973), 5978:713 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Daniel W. and Mary T. Hoyt, 1973), 5984:342 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Trahan Development Corporation, 1973), 6033:306 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Trahan Development Corporation, 1973), and 6152:474 (Edmund F. and Mary B. Trahan to Herbert and Beverly Goronkin, 1975).

130 Essex County Deeds 6295:71 (taking of land, 1976), 6582:182 (notice to foreclose, 1979), and 13692:265 (Town of Wenham *vs.* Tacona Company Inc., judgment, 1996). The Tacona

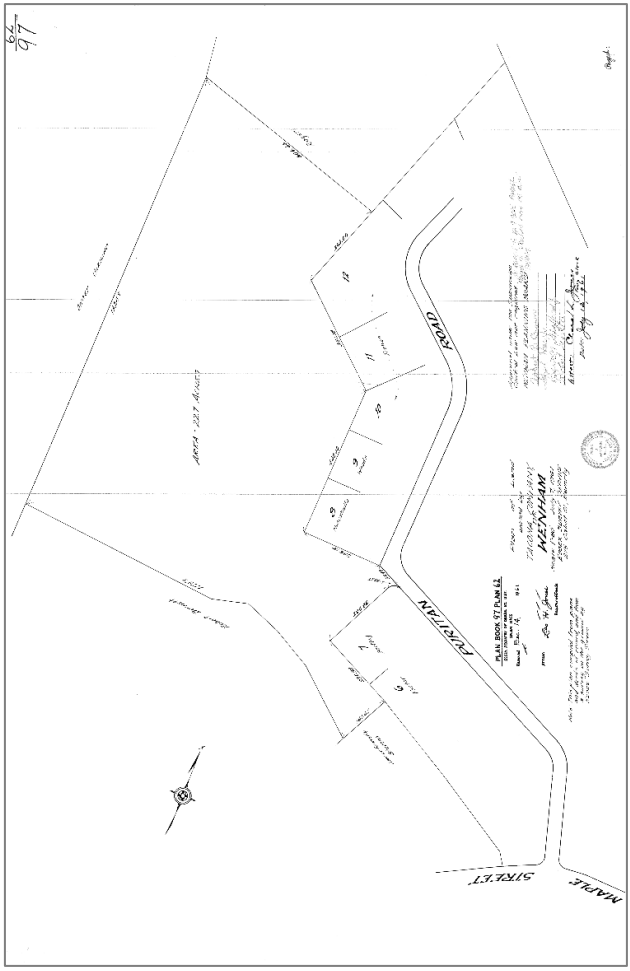

Figure 6.35. The Tacona Company's interpretation of their property —most of which was formerly part of the Kimball farm—that remained after the development of Puritan Road, 1961.[131]

Company dissolved on September 27, 1961 and revived on March 7, 1966 for a period of not one year; see Secretary of the Commonwealth, Corporations Card File, Boston, citing certificates of condition 65-41386, 65-41387, 65-41388 and 65-41389.

131 Essex County Deeds Plan 97:62 ("Plan of Land Owned by Tacona Company, Inc., Wenham," 1961).

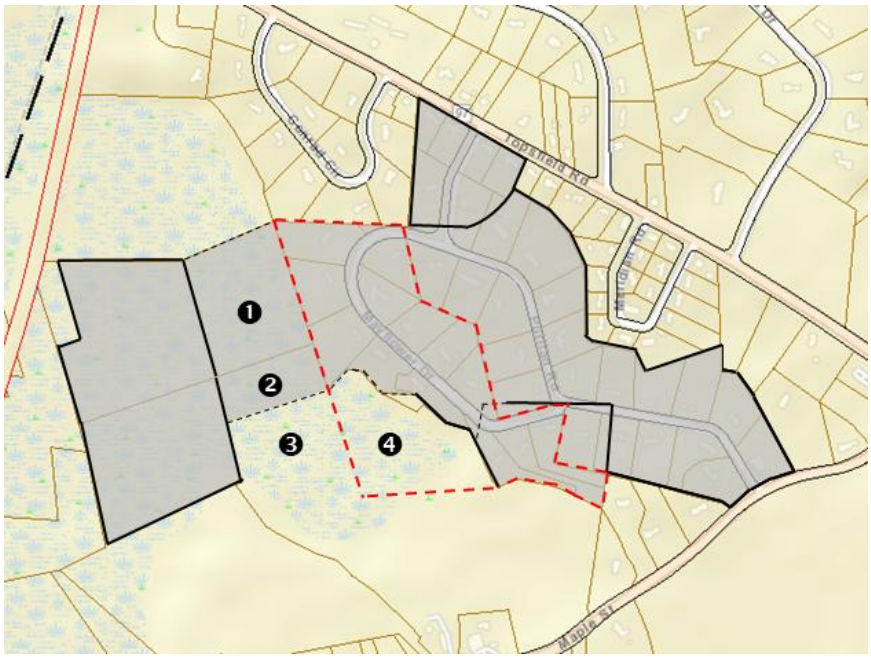

Figure 6.36. The dispute over the Kimball Farm's boundaries. This view takes the relevant boundaries from Figure 6.35 and superimposes them on Figure 5.27. The creator of Essex County Deeds Plan 97:62 (*i.e.*, Figure 6.35) was mistaken about where the Kimball family's property had been in Leach's Swamp—and confused Lots 1 and 2 with Lot 4. Interestingly, Plan 97:62 says that the owner of Lots 1, 2 and 3 was unknown. But somebody didn't do their homework, because it is clear from Essex County Deeds Plan 2390:48 that Lot 1 was owned by Solomon Kimball in 1918. It is also clear from Plan 2390:48 that Lots 2 and 3 were owned by Perley Cummings (1875–1927) in 1918.[132]

132 Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Essex County Deeds 596:118 (John Conant *et al.* to Joseph G. Kent and Solomon E. Kimball, 1859), 2390:48 (Solomon E. Kimball to John K. Kent, 1918), and 2390:49 (John K. Kent to Solomon E. Kimball, 1918); and Essex County Deeds Plan 2390:48 ("Division of Woodlot in Wenham Between Solomon Kimball & John K. Kent," 1918) and Plan 97:62 ("Plan of Land Owned by Tacona Company, Inc., Wenham," 1961).

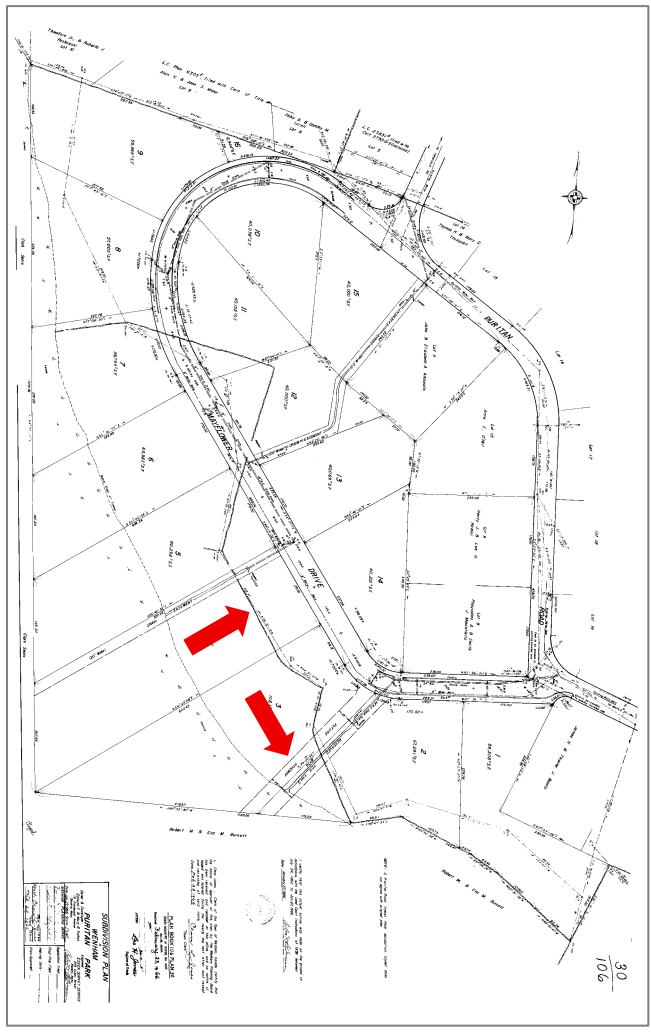

Figure 6.37. Initial subdivision plan for the Puritan Park neighborhood along Mayflower Drive, 1966. Notice the provision for a "Future Roadway" at the southeast of the development. Notice also the stone wall that zig-zags its way through the lefthand side of this image.[133]

133 Essex County Deeds Plan 106:30 ("Subdivision Plan in Wenham, Puritan Park," 1966).

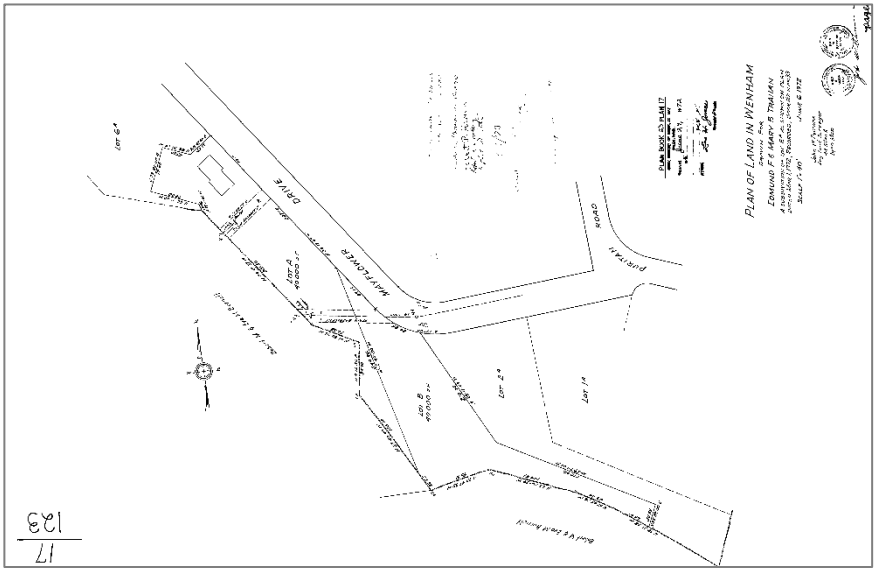

Figure 6.38. Resolution of the boundary between the Mayflower Drive development and the Burnett family's land, recognizing the significance of the antique stone wall that was already on site, 1972**.** The stone wall marks a boundary that goes back to 1639 (see Figure 1.20, Chapter 1). Notice that the former provision for a "Future Roadway" at the southeast of the development is gone.[134]

134 Essex County Deeds Plan 123:17 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Drawn for Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1972). See also Plans 120:46 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1971), and 122:33 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Prepared for Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1972).

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: New Streets in West Wenham, 1958–1981[135]

New Street	Plan Filed	First Household	Accepted by Town
Burnham Road	1958	1959	1958
Main Drive	1958	1959	1994
Hilltop Drive	1958	1960	1994
Enon Road	1958	1964	1994
Laurel Drive	1958	1981	1981
Conrad Circle	1961	1962	1963
Kimball Avenue	1962	1962	1963
Morgan Street	1962	1962	1973
Daniels Road	1964	1965	*see footnote*
Mayflower Drive	1966	1966	1990
Birch Road	1966	1969	*see footnote*

135 Essex County Deeds Plan 91:3 ("Plan for Subdivision of Land, Lord's Hill," 1957), 98:58 ("Subdivision Plan, Ardmore Oval–Sect. II," 1962), 104:99 ("Subdivision Plan, Fairfield Development," 1965), 106:30 ("Subdivision Plan in Wenham, Puritan Park," 1966), 107:62 ("Plan of Land Located in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Michael Caruso," 1966), 126:20 ("Street Acceptance Plan of Morgan Street in Wenham," 1973), 129:20 ("Proposed Subdivision on Proposed Extension of Birch Road in Wenham," 1974), 131:9 ("Site Development Plan Showing Existing and Proposed Topography," 1974), and 5191:429 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Dan C. Marino," 1964). Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Wenham, and the Reports of the School Committee and Trustees of the Public Library, For the Year Ending December 31, 1958* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1959), 84; (1964):34-37. Town of Wenham, *Street List: 1950–1973* (no publisher), Town Clerk's Office, Wenham, *Street List of Persons 20 Years of Age and Over Residing in Wenham on January 1, 1966,* 15; (1967):15; (1970):3. Town of Wenham, *Annual Reports* (1973), 16, 29-30; (1990):26, 29-30, 33. In 1992 the town voted to resurface Daniels Road and Birch Road even though they hadn't yet been accepted as a town-maintained streets; see Town of Wenham, *Annual Reports* (1992), 10, 23. Town of Wenham, *Annual Reports* (1994), 27.

BOB AND NANCY HATCH, OWNERS OF THE HOUSE FROM 1971 TO 1975

Robert "Bob" Winslow Hatch was born on September 8, 1938 in Hanover, New Hampshire, the son of Winslow Roper and Dita (Keith) Hatch, and died on January 24, 2025 in Overland Park, Kansas. His father was a professor of botany, his career taking him from Dartmouth College to Washington State College (Pullman, Washington, later Washington State University).[136] Bob married Nancy Packard Murphy in 1962. The daughter of Joseph James and Marjorie Beatrice (Packard) Murphy, she was born in 1939 and survived her husband.[137] They had three children: Kristin G. Hatch (born in 1966), Robert Winslow Hatch Jr. (born in 1968) and Dita K. Hatch (born in 1969).

Bob Hatch was a member of the Dartmouth College class of 1960 and earned an MBA from Dartmouth in 1962. Prior to the Hatches' purchase of the Thomas Kilham House, Hatch was with Libby Glass Company, New York City (1961–1962); a research assistant at Dartmouth's Amos Tuck School, Hanover (1962–1963); and had various roles at General Mills, Minneapolis (1963–1971). The Hatches moved to Wenham when Hatch became executive vice president at the Gorton Corporation, Gloucester, a position he held from 1971 to 1973. He was general manager of Gorton's protein division from 1973 to 1975. Afterwards he held executive-level positions in the food industry in Minneapolis and Kansas City.[138]

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136 H. A. Manning, *Manning's Lebanon, Hanover (New Hampshire), Hartford (White River Junction), Windsor (Vermont) Directory, January 1938* (Springfield, MA: H. A. Manning Co., 1938), 139; United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Pullman, Whitman County, Washington, 38:8:4; United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Pullman, Whitman County, Washington, 38:42:2; obituary, "Winslow R. Hatch," *Washington Star* [Washington, DC], May 21, 1980, C7, accessed from GenealogyBank.com; obituary, "Dita K. Hatch," *Lexington Minuteman* [Lexington, MA], February 5, 2015, accessed from GenealogyBank.com; obituary, "Robert Winslow Hatch," *Kansas City Star*, February 2, 2025, https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kansascity/name/robert-hatch-obituary?id=57430568; and Findagrave.com, memorials #142113357 (Dita (Keith) Hatch) and 213087038 (Winslow R. Hatch).

137 United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Lexington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 9:330:3-4; "Engaged," *Boston Sunday Herald*, December 31, 1961, A43; and Findagrave.com, memorials #224597154 (Marjorie B. (Packard) Murphy) and 224597156 (Joseph James Murphy)

138 "Robert Winslow Hatch," https://prabook.com/web/robert_winslow.hatch/3413317. See also "Robert W. Hatch," https://finca.org/profile/robert-w-hatch; hatch was a founding member (1984) and chairman of FINCA International.

Figure 6.39.
Bob Hatch.[139]

The Hatches bought the Kilham House in 1971 and sold it in 1975.[140] In 1974 they renovated the kitchen, installing cabinets that were stained to look like walnut. It's likely that about this time they replaced Evelyn Pescosolido's breezeway with a craft room.[141] The Hatches made two other changes to the house: Bob stripped the paint from the beams in the second floor southeast room,[142] and had the wine cellar built. Former neighbor Jean Jones, who lived on Daniels Road, recalls that Nancy Hatch hosted a book club of neighborhood mothers who read Rudolf Dreikurs' *Children: The Challenge*.[143]

139 Obituary, "Robert Winslow Hatch" (2025), https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/-kansascity/name/robert-hatch-obituary?id=57430568.

140 Essex County Deeds 5824:397 (Dwain B. and Carol C. Smith to Robert W. and Nancy M. Hatch, 1971), 5824:398 (Robert W. and Nancy M. Hatch to Gloucester National Bank, mortgage, 1971), 5910:506 (Gloucester National Bank, discharge, 1972), 5910:507 (Robert W. and Nancy M. Hatch to Gloucester National Bank, mortgage, 1972), 6141:232 (Robert W. and Nancy M. Hatch to Dorothy H. Warren, 1975), and 6142:270 (Gloucester National Bank, discharge, 23 April 1975); and Town of Wenham, *Street List* (1972):16, (1973): 17.

141 A business card of the cabinets' installer, which had "1974" written on it, was found inside one of the kitchen cabinets when the current owners renovated the kitchen in 1998.

The craft room had an L-shaped counter with cabinets beneath. One section of the counter ran along the north wall of the current-day TV room, and the other section was perpendicular to it, starting near the current-day door to the garage. In addition, cabinets were installed on the north wall. The craft room's beams were exposed. The cabinets, beams and tie beams (which were subsequently painted by the current owners) were stained a walnut color.

142 In a 2017 conversation with the current owners, South Hamilton residents Rich and Karyl Hayes related the story of Bob Hatch removing the paint from the bedroom's beams.

143 Jean Jones, interview with Robert O. Corcoran, February 21, 2020, at 26 Maple Street, Wenham.

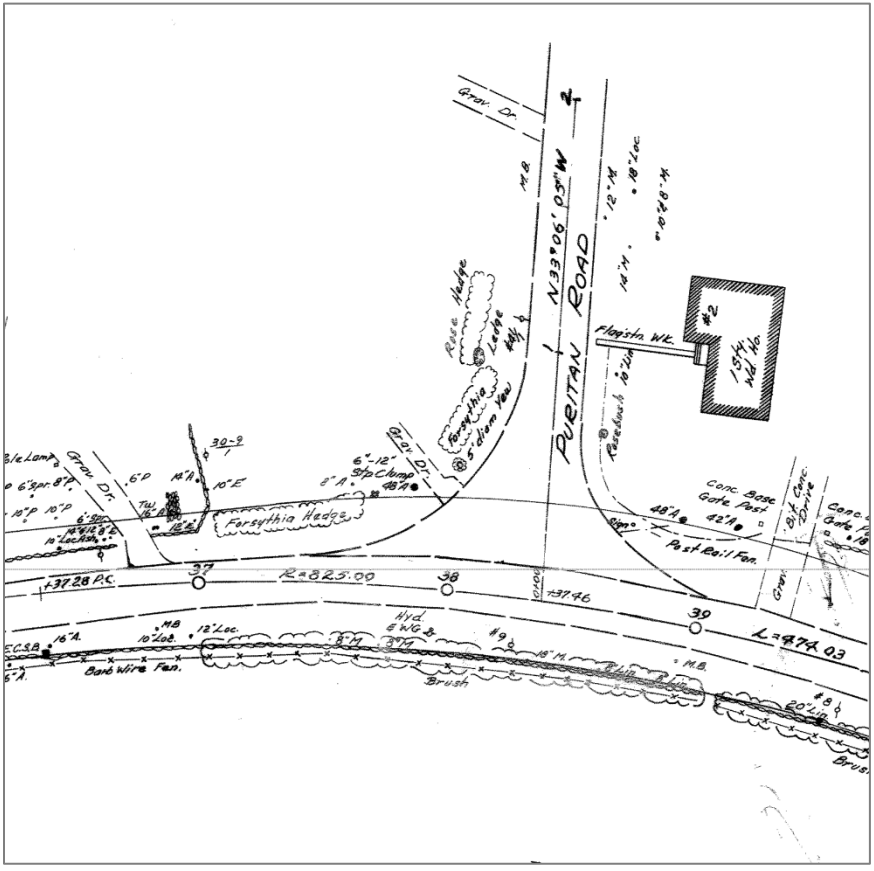

Figure 6.40. Plantings along Maple Street and Puritan Road, 1975. A forsythia hedge (which is still standing) runs along Maple Street. Another forsythia hedge and a rose hedge run along Puritan Road. The driveway was gravel and had two entries: One at the intersection of Maple Street and Puritan Road (*i.e.*, the current entry) and a second entry along Puritan Road (which was subsequently closed off).[144]

144 Essex County Deeds Plan 133:79 ("Plan of Maple Street in the Town of Wenham," 1975), detail.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: New Streets in West Wenham, 1978–2014[145]

New Street	Plan Filed	First Household	Accepted by Town
Orchard Lane	1978	1979	n/a (private way)
William Fairfield Drive Speakers Lane	1979	1981	1985
Stage Hill Road	1985	1986	1988
Virginia Place	1986	1987	1992
Nathaniel Circle	1996	2001	n/a (private way)
Middlewood Drive	2014	2014	n/a (private way)

145 Essex County Deeds Plan 151:52 ("Subdivision Plan & Plan of Orchard Lane in Wenham, Mass.," 1978), 158:23 ("Subdivision Plan of Land, Tucker Estate, Wenham, MA.," 1979), 165:17 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Wenham Trust, Nippe Trust & Tucker-Wenham Corp." 1981), 197:55 ("Definitive Subdivision Plan of Stage Hill Estates in Wenham, Mass.," 1985), 227:30 ("Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land, Wenham, Mass.," 1986), 312:15 ("Definitive Subdivision at Nathaniel Circle, Wenham, Massachusetts," 1996), 441:40 ("Phase 1, Condominium Site Plan, the Residences at Middlewood Condominium," 2013); Town of Wenham, *1982 Annual Reports, Part 1* (1982), 62, (1985), 35, (1987), 58, (1988), 27, (1992), 9, 23, 43, (2015), 37, 41; and CAI Property Cards, https://next.axisgis.com/WenhamMA/.

DAVE AND DOT WARREN, OWNERS OF THE HOUSE FROM 1975 TO 1997

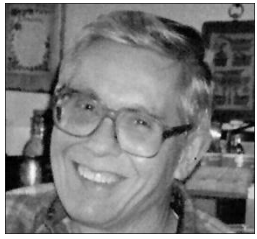

Figure 6.41. Dave Warren.[147]

The Warrens bought the house in 1975 and sold it in 1997. David B. Warren, son of Glenn B. and Gertrude P. Warren, was born in 1929 and died in 2014. He married Gertrude Dorothy "Dot" Hooper about the year 1957. The daughter of Allen G. and Lorna A. Hooper, Dot was born in 1932 and survived her husband. Dave and Dot Warren had three children. While living in Wenham, Dave was employed by General Electric Company in Lynn.[146]

In 1986 the Warrens commissioned a study of the architecture and history of the house.[148] During the project, the original First Period fireplace was discovered in the ground floor southeast room (Figure 6.43.) According to the story that Dot Warren told the current owners of the house in 1997, Dot had wanted to restore the fireplace but wasn't sure she could get Dave's agreement. Consequently, one day in 1986 she waited until he went to work and "took a crowbar to the thing," getting the bulk of the dirty work done by the time he returned home that evening.[149]

In 1990 the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, identified as the "Solomon Kimball House."

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146 United States Census Bureau, 1950 Federal Census, Haverford, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 17; Essex County Deeds 6141:232 (Robert W. and Nancy M. Hatch to Dorothy H. Warren, 1975) and 14403:63 (Dorothy H. Warren to Robert O. Corcoran and Frederick S. Woodland Jr., 1997); obituary, "David B. Warren" (2014), https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/david-warren-obituary?id=9192167; obituary, "David B. Warren" (2014), https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailygazette/name/david-warren-obituary?-id=23009139.

None of their children was named Peter, and therefore none was the source of the inscription "Peter" on the door to Peter's Room discussed at Volume 2, page 175. Austin (2023) recalled that Evelyn Pescosolido had an uncle "Smitty" who had a son Peter, but Austin could not recall whether her cousin Peter ever visited Pescosolido while she was living in Wenham.

147 Obituary, "David B. Warren" (2014), https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailygazette/name/david-warren-obituary?id=23009139.

148 John F. Cole, "The Thomas Kimball House," MS (Ipswich, MA: 1986).

149 See Volume 2, page 58, which has a typographical error of "1992" instead of 1997.

In the same conversation, Dot also mentioned that Dave had raised honeybees on the property, using apitherapy to treat his arthritis.

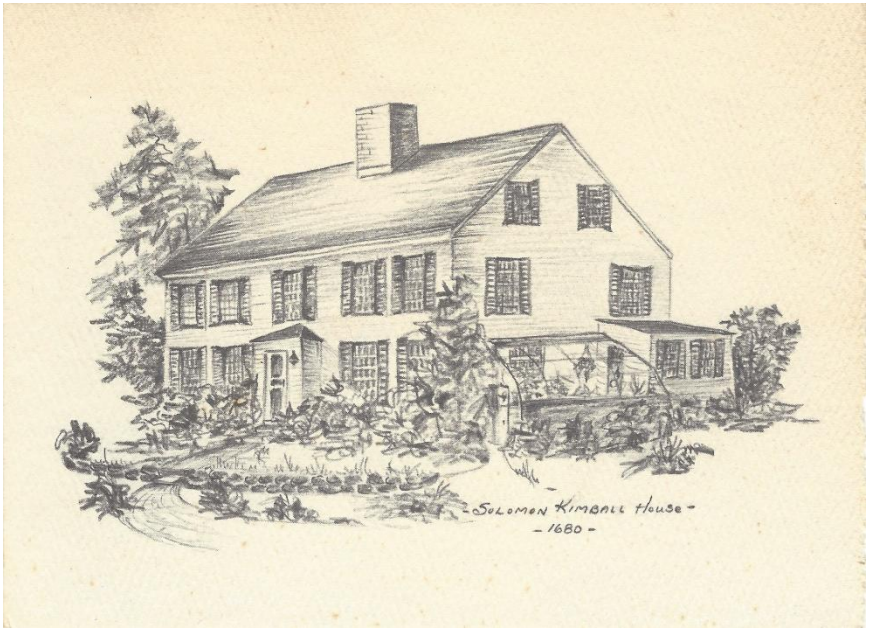


Figure 6.42. 1975 drawing of the "Solomon Kimball House" by Dot Warren.[150]

150 The Warrens used this image for their Christmas cards in 1975. They saved a few copies for future use; this example is the Warrens' 1997 Christmas card to the current owners of the house.

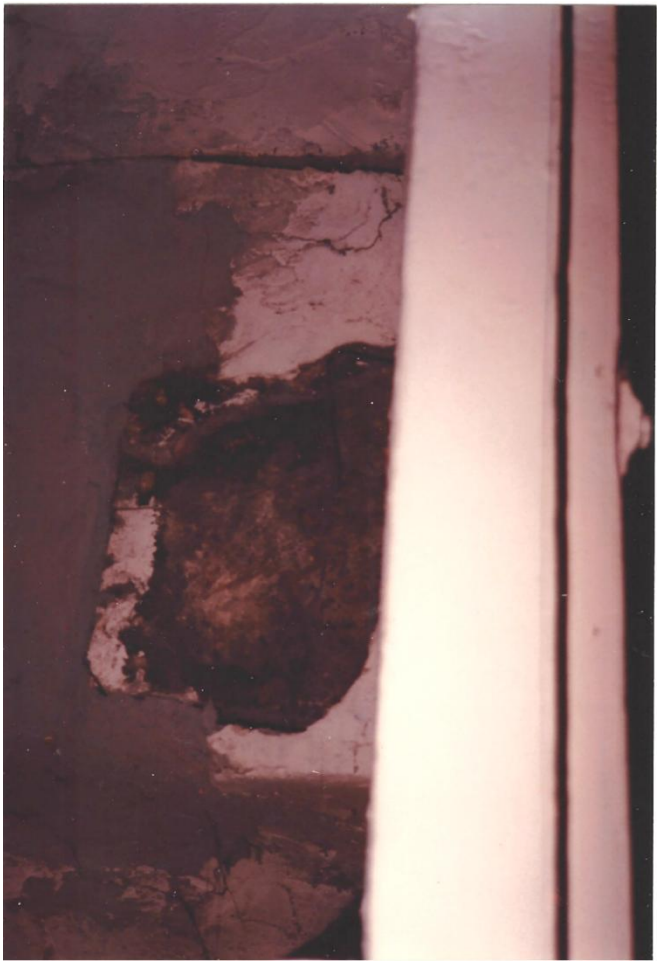


Figure 6.43. Original lintel for the fireplace in the ground floor south-east room. The end of the lintel, as shown here, could be viewed from inside the closet to the left of the fireplace. This was the evidence needed to alert the Warrens that the First Period fireplace was still in place, hidden by an eighteenth-century fireplace.[151]

151 Unidentified photographer. Illustration included in John F. Cole, "The Thomas Kimball House," MS (1986).

Figure 6.44. Fireplace wall, ground floor southeast room, 1982.[152]

152 1982 photograph by Rupert B. Lillie (1907–1996), a copy of which appears in Ganz (2013), 181, and at www.fairfieldfamily.com/photo_album/places/mass/html/willfhs.html, accessed May 23, 2021. The framed picture in the upper left corner is a copy of Conant's 1900 view of the house, shown as the frontispiece of this book. See also Figure 2.24 in Volume 2. The photograph is in the possession of the current owners of the house, who received it when they purchased the house.

Figure 6.45. Fireplace wall, ground floor southeast room, 1991.[153]

153 Unidentified photographer; dated December 1991 on its reverse. The photograph is in the possession of the current owners of the house, who received it when they purchased the house.

Figure 6.46. View of the front yard, 1986.[154]

154 Unidentified photographer; dated May 1986 on its reverse. The photograph is in the possession of the current owners of the house, who received it when they purchased the house.

Figure 6.47. View of the brick walkway, looking west, 1986.[155]

155 Unidentified photographer; dated May 1986 on its reverse. The photograph is in the possession of the current owners of the house, who received it when they purchased the house.

Figure 6.48. The Thomas Kilham House, probably 1985.[156]

156 Unidentified photographer; photograph undated. But compare this image with Figure 6.34, which suggests that this was taken by Anne Andres Grady (b.1932) in 1985. Note the absence of the magnolia visible in Figure 6.52. The photograph is in the possession of the current owners of the house, who received it when they purchased the house.

Figure 6.49. The Thomas Kilham House, 1986.[157]

157 Unidentified photographer. Illustrations included in John F. Cole, "The Thomas Kimball House," MS (1986).

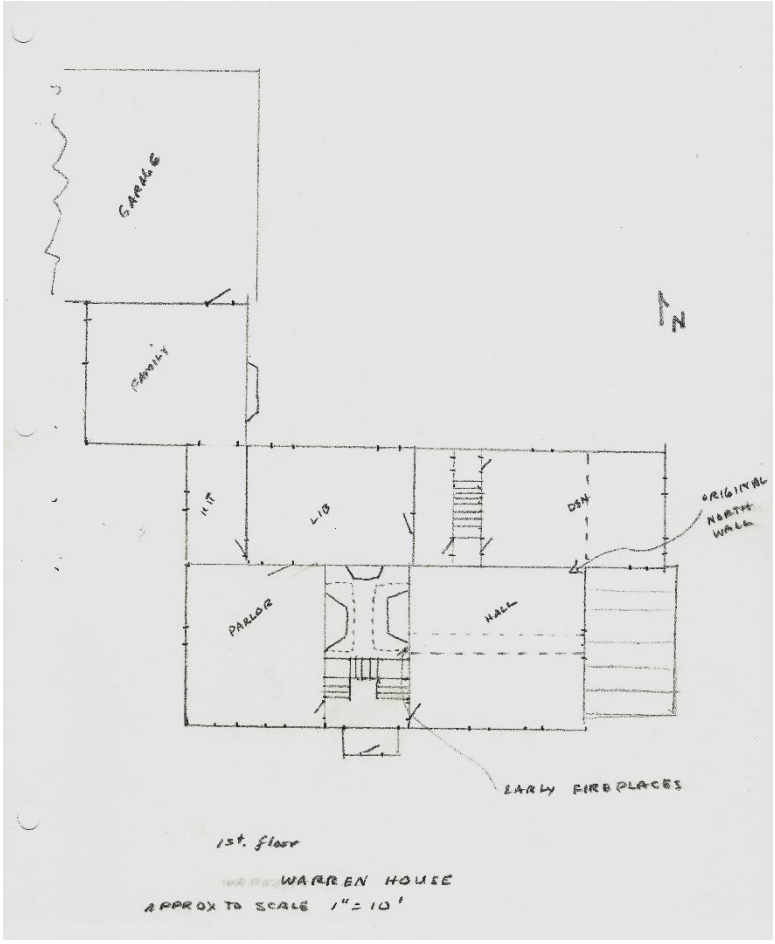


Figure 6.50. Ground floor plan, 1986.[158]

158 Illustration included in John F. Cole, "The Thomas Kimball House," MS (1986).

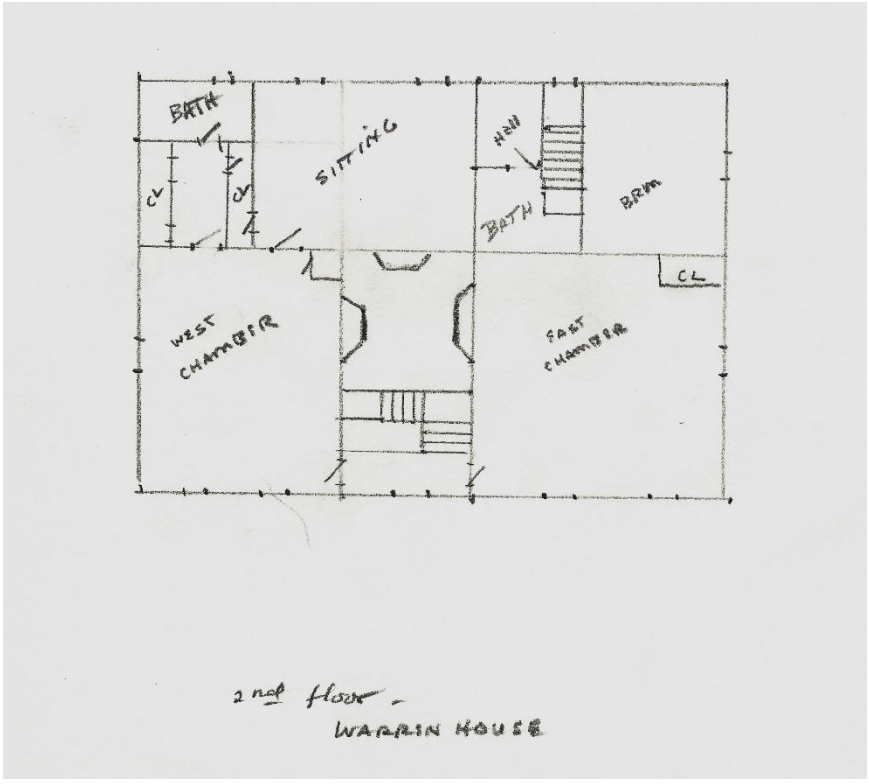


Figure 6.51. Second floor plan, 1986.[159]

159 Illustration included in John F. Cole, "The Thomas Kimball House," MS (1986).

Figure 6.52. The Thomas Kilham House, 1991 or 1994.[160]

160 Unidentified photographer; dated August 1991 or 1994 on its reverse, the last digital difficult to read. Based on the fact that the magnolia is in bloom, the photograph was taken during the spring. Part of the shed is visible along the right edge. The photograph is in the possession of the current owners of the house, who received it when they purchased the house.

CODA

THE Warrens sold the Thomas Kilham House in 1997 and retired to Lake George, New York.[1] We end the story of the house's owners and residents here, 310 years after the Kilhams built their one-room-plan house. Along the way we've encountered owners' and residents' connections with King Philip's War, the Salem Witchcraft Trials, enslavement, epidemics, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War and World War II. We explored the neighborhood's settlement in the 1630s; its de-yankeefication and simultaneous juxtaposition of economic inequality during the early 1900s; and its post-war suburbanization. We've stopped short of exploring the subsequent impact of the digital age on the neighborhood (although this book itself is a manifestation of that impact). Perhaps a future historian will continue the story.

1 Essex County Deeds 14403:63 (Dorothy H. Warren to Robert O. Corcoran and Frederick S. Woodland Jr., 1997).

Removal of the elm tree formerly in the front yard along the property line.[2]

2 August 8, 2020 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

APPENDICES

J: Solomon E. Kimball's Death Certificate

K: Lizzie (Fairfield) Kimball's Performance Reviews

L: Town Assessments, 1905–1955

M: Heads of Households, Maple Street, 1900–1940

N: Beverly Airport in World War II

O: Vernon Clark's Service in World War II

P: Newspaper Account of the Fire of 1959

Q: Newspaper Interview of Evelyn Pescosolido, 1962

R: Improvements to the House & Property, 1997–2025

S: Removal of the Furnace Chimney, 2019

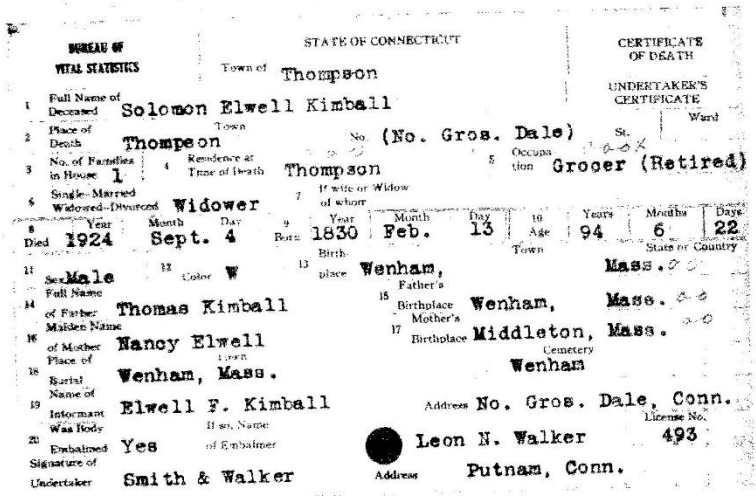
T: Black Lives Matter Episode, 2020

U: Insulation of the Attic, 2025

V: Ghosts

APPENDIX J:
SOLOMON E. KIMBALL'S DEATH CERTIFICATE[1]

1 Connecticut Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Public Health, Hartford, CT.



BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Town of Thompson

UNDERTAKER'S CERTIFICATE

1 Full Name of Deceased: Solomon Elwell Kimball

2 Place of Death: Town Thompson; No. (No. Gros. Dale); St.; Ward

3 No. of Families in House: 1; 4 Residence at Time of Death: Thompson; 5 Occupation: Grocer (Retired)

6 Single—Married—Widowed—Divorced: Widower; 7 If wife or Widow of whom

8 Died: Year 1924, Month Sept., Day 4; 9 Born: Year 1830, Month Feb., Day 13; 10 Age: Years 94, Months 6, Days 22

11 Sex: Male; 12 Color: W; 13 Birthplace: Town Wenham, State or Country Mass.

14 Father's Full Name: Thomas Kimball; 15 Birthplace: Wenham, Mass.

16 Mother's Maiden Name: Nancy Elwell; 17 Birthplace: Middleton, Mass.

18 Place of Burial: Town Wenham, Cemetery Wenham

19 Informant: Name Elwell F. Kimball; Address No. Gros. Dale, Conn.

20 Was Body Embalmed: Yes; If so, Name of Embalmer: Leon N. Walker; License No. 493

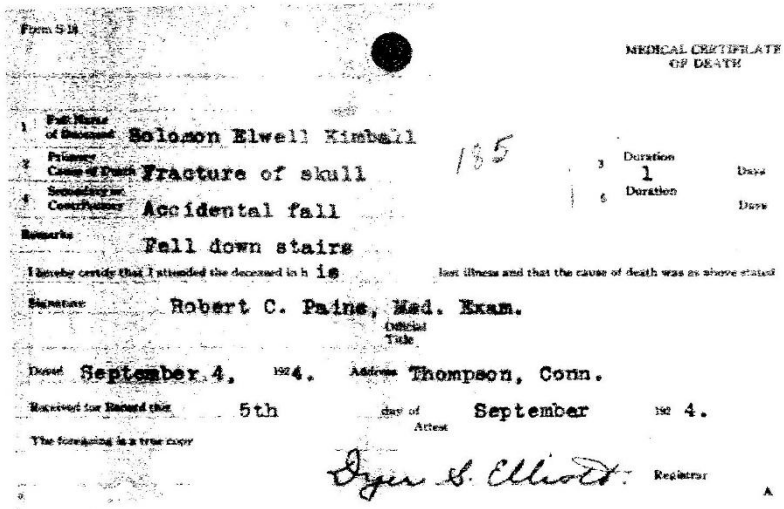
Signature of Undertaker: Smith & Walker; Address: Putnam, Conn.

THE SEAL OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT IS AFFIXED TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS ATRUE COPY OF A RECORD FILED WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF CONNECTICUT.

Elizabeth Frugale

ELIZABETH FRUGALE
STATE REGISTRAR OF VITAL RECORDS

NOV 2 3 2021
DATE OF ISSUE



From S 10

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 Full Name of Deceased: Solomon Elwell Kimball

2 Primary Cause of Death: Fracture of skull — 135

3 Duration: 1 Days

4 Secondary or Contributory: Accidental fall

5 Duration: Days

Remarks: Fell down stairs

I hereby certify that I attended the deceased in h is last illness and that the cause of death was as above stated

Signature: Robert C. Paine, Med. Exam. (Official Title)

Dated September 4, 1924. Address Thompson, Conn.

Received for Record this 5th day of September 1924.

Attest

The foregoing is a true copy

Dyer S. Elliott Registrar

APPENDIX K:
LIZZIE (FAIRFIELD) KIMBALL'S PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

WEST WENHAM SCHOOL, 1864–1865 WINTER TERM[1]

Miss Lizzie G. Fairfield, of Middleton, took charge of [the West Wenham School], by the retirement of Miss [Rebecca A.] Berry, who had met with such good success with us during a number of terms.

The school embraced, the past winter, a larger number of older scholars than formerly. The Committee were well pleased with the order, classification, and assignment of studies, and at the monthly visits they found the school busily engaged in their studies. Of the untiring fidelity and success in the performance of Miss Fairfield's duty as teacher, and of the school under her care we have nothing to say but praise. We have rarely witnessed a more interesting examination than the last one of this school.

Not a single class made an unsuccessful recitation, and the performances of some classes, those in geography, for instance, could hardly be surpassed. The reading was very good, except a few members in the first class, who had been prematurely promoted, but ought to have remained in the second class. The Arithmetic lessons were very creditable to both teacher and pupils, and in Grammar an increasing interest was shown which we trust will be crowned with rich results in the future. Writing books [were] clean, and several specimens which we observed were equal to any of the schools in the town. The Compositions that were read were worthy of praise.

Twenty-two scholars present every day. Twenty-two not tardy. Wages of teacher per month $28. Length of school 3 ¼ months. Whole number of scholars 43. Average attendance 41 4-13.

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1 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Wenham, For the Year Ending March 1865* (no publisher: 1865), 7.

WEST WENHAM SCHOOL, 1868–1869 SUMMER AND WINTER TERMS[2]

	Summer.	Winter.
Wages of Teacher per month,	$30.	$40.
Length of school in weeks,	19	11
Whole number of scholars,	33	35
Average attendance,	30	32
Number present at examination.		32
Present every day of the term,	4	11

This has been emphatically a working school. The inhabitants of the District need not to be informed in regard to the merits of Mrs. Kimball as a teacher; her works praise her. Under her firm and judicious management old habits of idleness were broken up, the ambition of the scholars was aroused, and the round of school duties, which are usually considered irksome, were made to appear pleasant and interesting. Of course a teacher that can awaken such an interest as this in her pupils has also the power to govern them, and that too without making much apparent effort. Such was the case here; the order was all that could be desired. The manners of the children outside the school room were also much improved. The teacher gave especial attention to reading, in which exercise this school was rather deficient at the close of last year. As an incentive to still greater exertion two prizes were offered for the most improvement. The classes had been well drilled in regard to the emphatic words, and as to the tone of voice to be used. The Committee were highly pleased with this exercise at the close of the term. Where all had done so well they found it a difficult matter to award the prizes; but, after taking all things into consideration, gave the first prize to EVERETT C. COOK and the second to LENA WEASEL.

The classes in geography have generally been considered well posted in this school, and on this occasion we found them in no wise behind previous years; not only were they at home on the map of the United States, but were equally prompt in regard to the more difficult names and localities of Asia and Africa. Of the first class in arithmetic, of five members, two had gone through the book, and the others were well advanced; the second class nearly through vulgar fractions; and the third through simple numbers. The classes in Colburn's arithmetic had been much improved since last year; the same can be said of three classes in grammar. Two scholars had gone over ninety-eight pages in algebra, and the same two recited well in history. The writing books showed care and attention. A prize for the most improvement was given to LEONORA COOK. A number of declamations and dialogues were listened to, which were well committed and well recited. The compositions read were of a high order. Three scholars, Lillie

2 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1869), 7-8.

Kent, Alice Clark, and Frank White, had not been absent or tardy during the year.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL (IN THE TOWN HALL), 1871–1872 SPRING, FALL AND WINTER TERMS[3]

	Spring	Fall	Winter
Length of school in weeks	11	10	12
Wages of teacher per month	$50	$50	$60
Whole number of scholars	55	45	57
Average attendance,	42	40	47
Number over fifteen	8	9	10

When this school was commenced by Mrs. Kimball, it was not in an enviable condition for a teacher to look upon for the first time. Disorder was apparent in every movement of the pupils, and the teacher knew it would require the utmost firmness to reduce the school to order. Your Committee knew the state of the school, and believed the teacher competent to effect a perfect discipline, and in this they were not disappointed; for she soon convinced those inclined to make a disturbance that she was mistress of the situation, and that she would be satisfied with nothing less than perfect obedience. Her work was a success and she deserves the thanks of all who had children under her charge, as well as of the children themselves. That the pupils appreciated her endeavors was made evident by the presentation of a beautiful picture at the examination at the close of the Fall term.

3 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1872), 6.

Figure K.1. The Grammar School classroom in Town Hall, 1894.[4]

4 Photograph by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921); March 10, 1894. Wenham Museum, B. H. Conant Collection, #00863.

WEST WENHAM SCHOOL, 1876–1877 SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER TERMS[5]

	Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
Length of school in weeks,	11	9	12
Wages of teacher per month,	$30	$30	$32
Whole number of scholars,	26	27	25
Average attendance,	21½	25	22

Number of visits by the Committee during the year, 9.
Number of other visitors during the year, 23.

The fact that Mrs. Kimball had consented to take charge of this school was a sufficient guarantee that a profitable year's work might be expected. Her administration of the affairs of the school was characterized by that tact and aptitude which generally bring success. At the commencement of the term, a few of the scholars may have indulged in thoughts of testing her authority, but if any such intention was entertained, it was soon abandoned, and throughout the year the discipline of the school was such as to leave no cause for complaint. In classifying the school, some changes were made in the standing of different scholars, but it is but just to them to say that they cheerfully acquiesced in all the changes that were thought best by the teacher and Committee. And it should be said that in everything that pertained to the well being [*sic*] and advancement of the school, the scholars seemed equally interested with the teacher. And especially was this the case during the latter part of the term, when the teacher was temporarily somewhat disabled, when they could have made her considerable trouble if they had been so disposed. The examination was such as may be expected when the teacher, parents and scholars, all co-operate for the same end. The exercises were very interesting, and the expectations of the Committee and friends were more than realized. The questions were selected at random from different lessons, and the promptness with which they were answered indicated a thoroughness which is not often surpassed.

WEST WENHAM SCHOOL, 1877–1878 SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER TERMS[6]

	Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
Length of school in weeks,	12	10	12
Wages of teacher per month,	$34	$34	$34
Whole number of scholars,	29	29	29
Average attendance,	26¼	22	25½

Number of visits by the Committee during the year, 10.

5 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1877), 8.
6 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1878), 8-9.

Number of other visitors during the year, 25.

Under the care of Mrs. Kimball, this school has enjoyed an unusually prosperous year. Of her ability as a teacher, it is unnecessary to speak—years of successful experience have made this apparent to all. The harmony and progress of the school have been uninterrupted by the introduction of any discordant elements, and the cordial support and co-operation of the parents, and diligence, perseverance and attention of the scholars, are worthy of commendation. In this school, as in some others, oral teaching has received considerable attention, one class in grammar having been taught, during the last two years, the fundamental rules, and learned to parse words and analyze sentences, without the use of any text book [*sic*]. We believe that the practical knowledge thus gained by them, of the rules which govern the use of the English language, is much greater than it would have been if they had committed to memory many pages of rules and definitions. One class of advanced scholars had given attention the present year to Philosophy, Physiology, Algebra, and Greenleaf's High School Arithmetic, and their recitations showed a good knowledge of those branches, as the reward of years of faithful study. The first class in Colburn's Mental Arithmetic were very prompt in their answers, and were ready to repeat and perform any question in the book, and the coming year we have no doubt they will be able to go on rapidly in the common school arithmetic. The younger scholars have done well, and most of them read with ease and understanding, and spelled and defined with accuracy. Concerning all the recitations at the closing examination, we can say that they were prompt and spirited. A large number of visitors were present, and expressed themselves as being much pleased with the exercises.

WEST WENHAM SCHOOL, 1878–1879 SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER TERMS[7]

	Summer.	Fall.	Winter.
Length of school in weeks,	11	11	12
Wages of teacher per month,	$35	$35	$36
Whole number of scholars,	37	27	30
Average attendance,	31	25	26

Number of visits by the Committee during the year, 9.
Number of other visitors during the year, 28.

Mrs. Kimball has been continued in charge of this school, with her usual good success. The commendations of her methods of teaching and manner of discipline, which have appeared in previous reports, can still be repeated with

7 Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the School Committee* (1879), 8-9.

truth. Her long experience has given her a knowledge of the duties of a teacher, which has been of great value to this school. A judicious effort has been made for the last three years to reduce the number of classes, and the result has been that a much better arrangement now exists, the number of classes having been reduced one-third, if not one-half.

The visits of the Committee always found the school in a good working condition, and the spirit of emulation which prevailed in the different classes rendered their recitations interesting. The school was suspended for several weeks during the winter term, on account of sickness in the family of the teacher, but such were the enthusiasm and interest of the scholars, that no injurious results were perceptible. At the closing examination the recitations were prompt and spirited. The reading was better than we have heard for some years in this school, and the spelling and defining were also very correct. For the class in history, 450 topical questions had been prepared, embracing nearly the whole book, and as many as there was time to ask were correctly answered, and the same can be said of 450 test questions in geography. In the arithmetic classes, both mental and written, there were very few failures in answering the questions and in performing the examples required. The grammar classes have been taught entirely by the oral method.

As a whole, we think the friends of the school have reason to feel satisfied with what has been accomplished the past year.

Appendix L:
Town Assessments of the Thomas Kilham House and Associated Property, 1905–1955

ASSESSED OF SOLOMON E. KIMBALL[1]

	Property	Valuation
1905	House on Maple Street	$1150
	Barn	$ 375
	Shop	$ 50
	Henneries	$ 75
	Tillage land, 13 acres	$ 900
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$ 500
	Woodland, 17 acres	$ 400
1909	House on Maple Street	$1150
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Henneries	$ 75
	Tillage land, 13 acres	$ 900
	Pasture land, 15 acres[2]	$ 375
	Land on Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 375
	Woodland, 17 acres	$ 400
1911	House on Maple Street	$1200
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Henneries	$ 75
	Tillage land, 13 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 15 acres	$ 375
	Land on Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 400
	Woodland, 17 acres	$ 400
1912	House on Maple Street	$1300
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Henneries	$ 75
	Tillage land, 13 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 15 acres	$ 375
	Land on Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 400
	Woodland, 17 acres	$ 400

1 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List and State, County and Town Tax of the Town of Wenham, For the Year 1905* (Beverly, MA: Citizen Printing Co., 1906), 10, (1909):27, (1911):30, (1912):31, (1913):33, (1914):31, (1915):31, (1916):31, (1919):30, (1922):32.

2 Note that the twenty acres of pasture included in the 1905 assessment had been divided into a fifteen-acre lot and a five-acre lot.

	Property	Valuation
1913	House on Maple Street	$1300
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Hennery [*sic*]	$ 75
	Tillage land, 13 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 15 acres	$ 375
	Land on Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 400
	Woodland, 17 acres	$ 400
1914	House on Maple Street	$1300
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Hennery	$ 75
	Tillage land, 13 acres	$1300
	Pasture land, 15 acres	$ 750
	Land on Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 500
	Woodland, 17 acres	$ 400
1915	House on Maple Street	$1300
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Hennery	$ 75
	Tillage land, 13 acres	$1300
	Pasture land, 15 acres	$ 750
	Land on Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 500
	Woodland, 17 acres	$ 400
1916	House on Maple Street	$1300
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Henneries	$ 75
	Tillage land, 13 acres	$1300
	Pasture land, 15 acres	$ 750
	Land on Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 500
	Woodland, 14 [*sic*] acres	$ 450

	Property	Valuation
1919	House on Maple Street	$1300
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Hennery	$ 75
	Tillage land, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres[3]	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	Peat meadow, 2 acres	$ 50
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300
1922	House on Maple Street	$1300
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Hennery	$ 75
	Tillage land, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	Peat meadow, 2 acres	$ 50
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300

3 Note that the composition of his lots has shifted from the 1916 assessment. Five acres of tillage have been converted to pasture. The seventeen acres of woodland has been divided into the Blind Hole woodland and Conant woodland lots, while the peat meadow seems to have been carved out of the abutting lots.

ASSESSED OF ELWELL F. KIMBALL[4]

	Property	Valuation
1925	House on Maple Street	$1300
	Barn	$ 400
	Shop	$ 50
	Hennery	$ 75
	Tillage land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	Peat meadow, 2 acres	$ 50
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300
	Land from J. F. Kent off Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 500
1928	House on Maple Street	$2000
	Barn	$ 500
	Shop	$ 50
	Hennery	$ 75
	Land [*sic*] on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	Peat meadow, 2 acres	$ 50
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300
	Land from J. F. Kent off Topsfield Road, 5 acres	$ 500
1931	House on Maple Street	$2000
	Barn[5]	$ 500
	Hennery	$ 150
	Land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	Peat meadow, 2 acres	$ 50
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300
	Hobbs lot [*sic*] off Maple Street, 5 acres	$ 500

4 Town of Wenham, *Valuation List* (1925):37, (1928):38, (1931):20, (1934):21, (1937):21, (1940):24, (1943):25, (1946):26, (1949):30, (1952):32, (1955):34.

5 Note that the shop, which appeared in previous valuations, is absent.

	Property	Valuation
1934	House on Maple Street	$2000
	Barn	$ 500
	Henneries [*sic*]	$ 150
	Shop [*sic*]	$ 50
	Land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres[6]	$ 500
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300
	Hobbs lot off Maple Street, 5 acres	$ 500
1937	House on Maple Street	$2000
	Barn and stable [*sic*]	$ 500
	Henneries	$ 150
	Shop	$ 50
	Land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300
	Hobbs lot off Maple Street, 5 acres	$ 500
1940	House on Maple Street	$2000
	Barn and stable	$ 500
	Henneries	$ 150
	Milk room[7]	$ 75
	Land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300
	Hobbs lot off Maple Street, 5 acres	$ 500

6 Note that the peat meadow, which appeared in previous valuations, is absent.

7 Note that the shop, which appeared in previous valuations, is absent, and that a milk room had been added to the farm.

	Property	Valuation
1943	House on Maple Street	$2000
	Barn and stable	$ 500
	Henneries	$ 150
	Milk room	$ 75
	Land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 250
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 300
	Hobbs lot off Maple Street, 5 acres	$ 500
1946	House on Maple Street	$2000
	Barn	$ 500
	Stable-garage[8]	$ 300
	Wagon shed	$ 150
	Milk room	$ 75
	Tillage land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land off Maple Street, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	Hobbs lot off Maple Street, 5 acres	$ 500
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 320
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 250
1949	House on Maple Street	$2500
	Barn	$ 500
	Stable and garage	$ 300
	Wagon shed	$ 150
	Milk room	$ 75
	Tillage land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Pasture land off Maple Street, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 320
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 250

8 Note that the barn and stable, which appeared in previous valuations, had been replaced by a barn and a stable-garage. Note also that the henneries, which appeared in previous valuations, had been replaced by a wagon shed.

	Property	Valuation
1952	House on Maple Street	$2500
	Barn	$ 500
	Stable and garage	$ 300
	Wagon shed	$ 150
	Milk room	$ 75
	Land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1000
	Land off Maple Street, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 500
	Hobbs lot off Maple Street, 5 acres	$ 500
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 320
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 250
1955	House on Maple Street	$2500
	Barn	$ 500
	Other buildings	$ 500
	Land on Maple Street, 8 acres	$1200
	Pasture land off Maple Street, 20 acres	$1000
	Land on Topsfield Road, 4 acres	$ 800
	Hobbs lot off Maple Street, 5 acres	$ 500
	"Blind Hole" woodland, 8 acres	$ 320
	Conant woodland, 8 ⅓ acres	$ 250

APPENDIX M:
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS LIVING ON MAPLE STREET IN THE 1900–1940 FEDERAL CENSUSES

Solomon Kimball rented out the Thomas Kilham House from 1897 to 1924, and his son Elwell rented it out until 1955. Census records and commercially published directories of the town allow us to identify their tenants for most of this period, although these resources entail a couple of issues that complicate the task. First of all, *house numbers weren't introduced to Maple Street until 1949*.[1] Second of all, census-takers usually recorded households in the order in which they visited them, but not necessarily in geographic order. (Or, in other words, one must anticipate "census-taker wanderer error." The 1940 census-taker's record of Maple Street is a stellar example.) But comparison of the 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 censuses for Wenham[2]—along with maps of the town published in 1884 and 1910,[3] property titles, and commercially published directories—allows us to compensate for the absence of

1 Compare Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Wenham, Including the Reports of the School Committee and Trustees of the Public Library, For the Year Ending December 31, 1948* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1949), 89 with 1949's list at (1950):80. Street numbers for Maple Street first appear in the Crowley and Lunt biannual series of directories in 1949. See Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory, Including Hamilton and Wenham, Vol. XLV, 1949* (Beverly, MA: Crowley and Lunt, 1949), 939; and compare it with Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1947), 922. Indeed, in the absence of street numbers, mail service for Maple Street was done by rural free delivery from *Danvers* until 1963. See Town of Wenham, *Street List: 1950–1973* (no publisher), Town Clerk's Office, Wenham, *Street List of Persons 20 Years of Age and Over Residing in Wenham on January 1, 1964*, 2.

2 Almost all of the 1890 Federal census (including all of the census for Wenham) was lost in a fire in 1921.

3 George H. Walker & Co., *Atlas of Essex County* (Boston: G. H. Walker & Co., 1884), 87; and *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (Boston: Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co., 1910), plate 34.

street numbers, minimize census-taker wanderer error, and use process-of-elimination to determine who lived in the Thomas Kilham House at the time of each census and during many of the intervening years.

The following tables identify heads of households in the 1900–1940 Federal censuses living on Maple Street and assign them to specific addresses. The symbol "~" is used in cases where the address is an approximate location.

1900 Federal Census[4]		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
113 Maple	Martha A. Morgan (1818–1911) Owner	• 1884 Atlas • Property title history
~107 Maple	Alvah M. Hill (1851–1914) Renter	• The census record suggests that the Hills lived near the intersection of Maple and Burley Streets • The Wenham directory of 1901[5] identified Hill as living on Maple Street "n[ear] Danvers line"
88 Maple	George W. Peabody (1842–1921) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
84 Maple	Chester S. Cook (1865–1931) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
74 Maple	James Frank Crockett (1852–1937) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
58 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Vacant or uncooperative resident(s)	• The house was owned by Michael Sullivan (*ca.*1830–1909), but there's no Sullivan anywhere in the 1900 census, and no obvious candidate for resident of this house • The Wenham directory of 1901[6] identified Hill as living on Perkins Street
47 Maple	Joseph F. Kent (1841–1917) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
38-40 Maple	Samuel S. Cook (1817–1902) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history

4 United States Census Bureau, 1900 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 468:1-2. Forty-six people were recorded as living along Maple Street.

5 Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory for Salem, Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Hamilton, Wenham, Middleton and Topsfield, No. 10, 1901–1902* (Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1901), 1105.

6 *Ibid.*, 1108.

1900 Federal Census		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
Opposite 36 Maple	Otis Alley (1837–1911) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
30 Maple	John W. L. Moulton (1837–1910) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
26 Maple	**Charles W. Bixby (1844–1926) Renter**	The 1900 census entry for Bixby appears between those for John W. L. Moulton and William Andrews; all other residents of Maple Street accounted for
9 Maple	Vacant	This house was owned by, and was the summer residence of, Benjamin F. (1839–1927) and Adelaide L. Peach (1846–1920), who appear in the 1900 census living in Lynn, Massachusetts
7 Maple	William Andrews (1849–1932) / Charles W. Andrews (1876–1936) Renters	• This house was owned by shoemaker/farmer John H. Tiney (1850–1937), but he appears in the 1900 census as living in Beverly, Massachusetts • The Wenham directory of 1901 identified both Andrewses as living on Maple Street "n[ear] Bomer" Street
6 Maple	George V. Bowden (1840–1917) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history

1910 Federal Census[7]		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
113 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Allison H. Peabody (1857–1934) Renter	Identified as living on Maple Street "n[ear] Danvers line" (but not living in the George W. Peabody household at 88 Maple Street) in the Wenham directories of 1905 and 1909[8]
~107 Maple	Edgar Stanyan (1860– ?) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
94 Maple	George W. Preston (1873–1952) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Preston's house was on land owned by his father-in-law George W. Peabody[9] • Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949[10]
88 Maple	George W. Peabody (1842–1921) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
84 Maple	George W. Gatchell (1845–1928) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
74 Maple	James Frank Crockett (1852–1937) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
58 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Dennis F. (1881–1914) and William D. Sullivan (1883– ?), heirs of Michael Sullivan Owners Byron Banks (1878- Renter	• The 1910 census entry for Banks appears between those for Crockett and Kent • The house at 58 Maple Street was owned by the estate of the late Michael Sullivan (*ca.*1830–1909), and the 1911 Wenham directory identified Dennis F. and William D. Sullivan as living in the Michael Sullivan house on Maple Street "n[ear] Burley" Street[11] • Perhaps the Sullivans declined to speak with the census-taker, and perhaps Banks and his wife were boarders of the Sullivans
47 Maple	Joseph F. Kent (1841–1917) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history

7 United States Census Bureau, 1910 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 486:8-9, 11. Forty-seven people were recorded as living along Maple Street.

8 Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1905):1315, (1909):1389.

9 Selim Hobart Peabody, *Peabody (Paybody, Pabody, Pabodie) Genealogy* (Boston: Charles H. Pope, 1909), 437: George W. Preston and Lucy ("Lulu") Alice Peabody (1873–1960) were married in 1899.

10 Crowley and Lunt, *The Beverly City Directory* (1923):809, (1925):837, (1927):875, (1930):907-908, (1932):925, (1934):921, (1936):921, (1940):926, (1942):922, (1944):922, (1947):922, (1949):939.

11 Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1911), 1315.

1910 Federal Census		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
38-40 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Albert Szczepanek/Steparnac (1874– ?) Renter	• The 1910 census entry for "Steparnac" appears between those for Kent and Alley • The house was that was on the site of current-day 38-40 Maple Street was owned by Frank (1857–1924) and Fannie R. Edwards (1865–1951) who appear in the 1910 census living in Beverly, Massachusetts[12]
Opposite 36 Maple	Otis Alley (1837–1911) Renter	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
30 Maple	John W. L. Moulton (1837–1910) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
26 Maple	**Charles W. Bixby (1844–1926)** **Renter**	The 1910 census entry for Bixby appears between those for John W. L. Moulton and Samuel Sidney Cook;[13] all other residents of Maple Street accounted for
9 Maple	Vacant	This house was owned by, and was the summer residence of, Benjamin F. and Adelaide L. Peach, who appear in the 1910 census living in Lynn, Massachusetts
7 Maple	Samuel Sidney Cook (1881–1919) Renter	• Although Cook had likely lived at 38-40 Maple Street in 1902 or 1903, the Cook family sold that house in 1904[14] • The 1910 census reported that Cook owned this house, but this appears to be an error; the house, like that at 9 Maple Street, was actually owned by Benjamin F. and Adelaide L. Peach, who appear in the 1910 census living in Lynn, Massachusetts • The 1909 Wenham directory[15] identified him as living on Maple Street "n[ear] Topsfield [R]oad"
6 Maple	George V. Bowden (1840–1917) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history

12 Surname rendered as "Steparnac" and identified as a farm laborer in the 1910 census; rendered as "Szczepanek" in the 1911 Wenham directory as having moved to Boston (Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1911), 1315); and rendered as "Szczepanek" when he bought farmland on Wenham Street in Danvers in 1911 (Essex County Deeds 2111:214 (George P. Davison to Albert Szczepanek, 1911).

13 Bixby appears after the Moulton entry in the census records for both 1900 and 1910; this repeated proximity to the Moultons eliminates the risk of census-taker wanderer error.

14 Essex County Deeds 1743:365 (William C. Low, executor, to Frank Edwards, 1904), first parcel.

15 Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1909), 1386.

1920 Federal Census[16]		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
113 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Allison H. Peabody (1857–1934) Renter	• Identified as living on Maple Street "n[ear] Danvers line" (but not living in the George W. Peabody household at 88 Maple Street) in the Wenham directories of 1915, 1918 and 1921[17] • Wenham directory of 1923
~107 Maple	Charles Spiliotis (*ca.*1884– ?) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Identified as living on Maple Street "at Dan[vers] line" in the Wenham directory of 1921[18] • Wenham directory of 1923
94 Maple	George W. Preston (1873–1952) Owner	Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949
88 Maple	George W. Peabody (1842–1921) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directory of 1923 (N. M. Peabody)
84 Maple	George W. Gatchell (1845–1928) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directory of 1923
74 Maple	James Frank Crockett (1852–1937) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directory of 1923
58 Maple	Perley L. Cummings (1875–1927) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directory of 1923
47 Maple	Andrew Schlehuber (1863–1944) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Vacant in the Wenham directory of 1923

16 United States Census Bureau, 1920 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 293:10-11. Sixty people were recorded as living along Maple Street.

17 Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *The Naumkeag Directory* (1915), 1328; and Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *Hamilton, Middleton, Topsfield, Wenham, Massachusetts Directory, Vol. 1, 1918* (Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1918), 142, (1921):53.

18 Henry M. Meek Publishing Company, *Hamilton … Directory* (1921), 56.

1920 Federal Census		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
38-40 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Edward E. Reed (1862–1923) Renter	• The 1920 census entry for Reed appears between those for Andrew Schlehuber and Perley Cummings • The house was owned by Alanson L. (1869–1930) and Frances P. Daniels (1869–1946) • Reed's occupation in the 1920 census was "laborer" on a farm: Was he an employee of Alanson and Frances Daniels?
Opposite 36 Maple	Almira Alley (1842–1920) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history
30 Maple	*Hypothesis:* John E. Higgins (1854–1930) Owner	• The 1920 census entry for Higgins appears between those for Andrew Schlehuber and Edwin T. Jones • The house was owned by Alanson L. and Frances P. Daniels • Higgins' occupation in the 1920 census was "laborer" on a farm: Was he was an employee of Alanson and Frances Daniels?
26 Maple	**Charles W. Bixby** **(1844–1926)** **Renter**	• The 1920 census entry for Bixby appears between those for Carl Page and Almira Alley; all other residents of Maple Street accounted for • Wenham directory of 1923
9 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Edwin T. Jones (1874– ?) Renter	• The 1920 census entry for Jones appears between those for John E. Higgins and Almira Alley • This house was owned by, and was the summer residence of, Alanson L. and Frances P. Daniels, who appear in the 1920 census (as "Lansing" and Frances Daniels) living in Boston • In 1918 Jones was a gardener at the John C. Phillips estate on the western shore of Wenham Lake[19] • Jones' occupation in the 1920 census was "manager" of a farm: Given his work experience on the Phillips estate, it's very possible that in 1920 he was an employee of Alanson and Frances Daniels
7 Maple	Carl H. Page (1892–1938) Renter	Wenham directories of 1921 and 1923
6 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Vacant or uncooperative renter(s)	• The house was owned by Nancy E. Bowden (1849–1930), but she appears in the 1920 census living on Walnut Street, Wenham • Nancy E. Bowden was living here according to the Wenham directory of 1923

19 "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," online database, Ancestry.com, 2005, Beverly City, Draft Board 23, Draft Card J.

1930 Federal Census[20]		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
113 Maple	Andrew Spiliotis (1877–1950?) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936 and 1949
94 Maple	George W. Preston (1873–1952) Owner	Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949
88 Maple	Nellie M. Peabody (1877–after 1956) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history[21] • Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949
84 Maple	Benjamin A. Gatchell (1878–1963) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1932 and 1934
74 Maple	James Frank Crockett (1852–1937) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930 and 1932
58 Maple	Edwin P. Cummings (1899–1981) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930 and 1932
47 Maple	Andrew Schlehuber (1863–1944) Owner	• 1910 Atlas • Property title history • Wenham directories of 1930, 1932, 1934 and 1940
38-40 Maple	*Hypothesis:* Eugene E. Lavoye (1902–1974) Renter	• The 1930 census entry for Lavoye appears between those for Andrew Schlehuber and Sherman Clark • The house was owned by Alanson L. and Frances P. Daniels • Lavoye's occupation in the 1930 census was "caretaker" of a farm: It seems that he was employee of Alanson and Frances Daniels

20 United States Census Bureau, 1930 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 283:6-7. Forty-one people were recorded as living along Maple Street.

21 Essex County Deeds 4274:397 (Georgia F. Smith, conservator of Nellie M. Peabody, to Gardner M. Damon, 1956).

1930 Federal Census		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
Opposite 36 Maple	Vacant	Wenham directory of 1930
30 Maple	James H. Kerrigan (1877–1952) Renter	Wenham directories of 1930, 1932 and 1934
26 Maple	**Sherman R. Clark (1879–1951) Renter**	Wenham directories of 1930, 1932 and 1934
9 Maple	Vacant	Summer residence Alanson L. and Frances P. Daniels
7 Maple	Revere W. Brooks (1900–1973) Renter	Wenham directories of 1930 and 1932
6 Maple	Martin A. McKillick (1884–1969) Owner	• Property title history • Wenham directories of 1932 and 1934

1940 Federal Census[22]		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
113 Maple	James Spiliotis (1896–1969) Owner Peter Spiliotis (1884–1962) Renter	• Property title history • Wenham directory of 1940 • Wenham directories of 1936 and 1940
94 Maple	George W. Preston (1873–1952) Owner Albert L. Preston (1908–1966) Owner George A. Tillson (1871–1959) Renter	• Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949 • Essex County Deeds 3256:258 (Albert L. and Elizabeth S. Preston to Francis H. and Anna F. Daigle, 1941) • Tillson was Albert Preston's father-in-law[23]
88 Maple	Nellie M. Peabody (1877–after 1956) Owner	• Property title history • Wenham directories of 1923, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949
84 Maple	George T. Harding (1906–1968) Renter	Wenham directory of 1940
74 Maple	Lendell G. Foan (1890–1957) Renter	Wenham directories of 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949
58 Maple	Julia Cummings (1871–1967) Owner	• Property title history • Wenham directories of 1932, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1942 and 1944 (although she is absent from the 1940 census)
~53 Maple[24]	Sherman R. Clark (1879–1951) Renter	Wenham directory of 1940

22 United States Census Bureau, 1940 Federal Census, Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts, 5:403:8-9, 13-14 (a beautiful example of census-taker wanderer error). Sixty-four people were recorded as living along Maple Street.

23 "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910," online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society (2004), 582:440 (birth of Elizabeth S. (Tillson) Preston).

24 United States Geological Survey, *Massachusetts (Essex County) Salem Quadrangle, 1942* (U.S. Department of the Interior, 1944).

1940 Federal Census		
Address	**Head of Household**	**Rationale for Address**
47 Maple	Andrew Schlehuber (1863–1944) Renter	• Property title history • Wenham directories of 1930, 1932, 1934 and 1940
38-40 Maple	Vacant lot?	No one appears here in the Wenham directory of 1940
Opposite 36 Maple	Ernest T. Gregory (1883–1965) Renter	Wenham directory of 1940
30 Maple	Vacant lot?	No one appears here in the Wenham directory of 1940
26 Maple	**Ernest W. Thayer (1881–1964) Renter**	Wenham directories of 1940 and 1942
9 Maple	John S. Amory (1900–1967) Owner	• Property title history • Wenham directories of 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949
7 Maple	Andrew R. Dunn (1885–1949) Renter	Wenham directory of 1940
6 Maple	George O. Bromley (1890–1956) Owner	• Property title history • Wenham directories of 1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1947 and 1949

APPENDIX N:
BEVERLY AIRPORT IN WORLD WAR II

Burley Street resident Robert B. Hicks (b.1930) published a memoir of his childhood in West Wenham in celebration of Wenham's 350th anniversary. While the whole work is an excellent read, this portion of his memoir gives a particularly vivid look at life in the neighborhood during World War II:[1]

> There's a photo in my mother's photo album of our small farm on Burley Street taken in December, 1942 entitled, "Surveyors all over the place because of airport expansion. Took this photo because we didn't know what was going to happen!"
>
> What was going to happen was that World War II was about to descend upon us in this far corner of town as the U.S. Navy took title by eminent domain of properties surrounding the tiny grass airfield of the Beverly Aero Club over next to Hoods Cherry Hill Farm in Beverly. The tiny airfield was to grow into a large training field on which aspiring naval aviators would learn how to fly their warplanes before attempting to do so from aircraft carriers.
>
> The field would have three paved runways, two of them each almost a mile in length. One pointed right at our farm (and still does today) but fortunately for our family it fell short of taking away my parents' dream farm on which they had already lavished much effort.
>
> Not so fortunate were George and Lottie Perkins up the street nearer to the proposed airfield, who lost their ancestral farmhouse and much of their land to the needs of war. They were our street's "seniors", living out their retirement years after their farm buildings (and herd of cows) burned several years before. They were evicted and were relocated closer to us on Burley Street in a small

1 Bob Hicks, "Growing Up in Wenham in WWII: Recollections of a Bygone Era," HWLibrary.org/growing-up-in-wenham-in-wwii/ (Wenham, MA: Bob Hicks, 2018), "The US Navy Lands in Wenham," reprinted in *Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle*, August 16, 2018, A3.

cottage built for them from lumber salvaged from the old farmhouse by their son Porter.

This sudden development ushered in three years of noise, dust, noise, traffic, and more noise to our once quiet street, much of it offering this now teenage boy a lot of exciting action right in the neighborhood. When construction began and a need for gravel fill arose, the gravel bank that then existed on Maple Street (opposite where Burnett's Garage is now) was taken over from its proprietors, McCarthy Brothers Construction of Peabody who had been digging away at it for several years.

Burley Street was just around the corner, a direct route to the airport construction site and so it became a haul road for much of a year. The unending parade of giant noisy, smoky, Sterling gravel trucks of John Iafolla & Co. destroyed the peacefulness of our remote street as well as the street itself. Iafolla had to do constant maintenance on the roadbed. There was nothing to be done about it for it was war time.

For me the sights and sounds of the steam shovels (no longer steam driven but the name stuck) at work in the McCarthy pit provided free time entertainment and when the gravel bank was gone my attention moved to the airport construction itself up the street. My buddies (four of us) could roam freely anywhere over the vast area on our bicycles, watching not only steam shovels but graders, bulldozers, and eventually asphalt plants at work as the new airfield slowly took shape. There were no barriers to our access nor did anyone we encountered seem to mind our being there.

But all this was but a prelude to the main attraction (to me but not to my parents), the arrival of the "war birds". These were the Grumman TBF Avenger torpedo bombers, WWII's heaviest single engine warplane powered by a 1,900hp air-cooled Wright Cyclone 18 cylinder radial engine. Big, heavy and relatively slow, it carried a full size torpedo or a 2,000 bomb inside and had a three-man crew.

Their first arrival in early 1944 was unannounced (it was wartime) when a flight of eight arrived from the Squantum Naval Air Station in Quincy to begin practicing aircraft carrier landings. The procedure was to land within a marked out area on the runway the length of an aircraft carrier deck. For this training the entire crew of each was made up of student pilots who alternated flying the plane with an instructor initially. The eight planes formed a parade around a rectangular "flight pattern" several miles around the airfield so a non-stop procession of "touch and go" could be achieved.

On any day with a northwest wind (fair weather hereabouts) the din was unending as each plane flew over our home 1,100' from the end of the runway at about 150' altitude with full 1,900hp and maximum (noisiest) propellor pitch. Only when the weather was unsuitable for flying were we spared this intrusion into our daily lives (it was wartime remember, and was to go on well into 1945 before the training program was reduced as the war's end neared).

After a specified number of "landings" had been made the planes would pull up to the gathered students awaiting their turns. It was then that my buddies and I were in our glory, for we could stand right up there with these flyboys, most of them barely four years older than us, with that huge plane front and center, engine idling while the student swap was made and then growling into full cry with flames jetting several feet from the huge exhaust pipe. To a 14 year old boy the thrill was unimaginable. What never dawned upon us then was that some of those "boys" hardly older than us would never come back from their ultimate missions far away in the South Pacific attempting to torpedo Japanese warships.

Then came the day I'll always remember when a Grumman Hellcat fighter, which had been hotdogging around the field, took off. As we (several of my buddies were in our backyard) looked up, it suddenly became silent, its engine had cut out. It was a moment frozen in time as I saw the pilot open his canopy but he was too low to parachute and in an instant the plane was gone down behind the trees and the noise of its impact down around Maple Street reached our ears.[2]

We jumped on our bikes and pedaled furiously to the scene. The pilot had made a perfect belly landing in two truck garden[3] fields then on the north side of Maple Street, skimming the tree tops lining the street, sliding across one field and blowing through the intervening stone wall, shearing off its wings and tossing boulders everywhere, finally coming to rest in the further field.

By the time we got there the pilot had already climbed out and had been helped to the nearby home of the Speliotis family, owners of the fields. A small crowd was gathering when U.S. Navy jeeps escorting a large 10 wheeler crane arrived from the airport. Arrangements were soon made to pick up the plane (remaining fuselage) with the crane and take it to the airport, [b]ut a small problem arose and with it came a moment in which we adolescent boys shared briefly in the war effort. There was a slight upgrade across the fields back to Maple Street and as the crane truck began this ascent its front wheels lifted slightly from the ground due to the weight of the plane behind. We, along with several nearby Putnamville boys, lined the path the crane was to follow. The truck driver saw us and yelled out, "Hey, you boys, get up on the front of my truck to get the wheels back on the ground."

Hardly believing our ears, we made a mad scramble to clamber up on the broad hood and fenders of the truck and along the wide front bumper. The wheels came down and we triumphantly rode it to the road, where the driver,

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2 This incident seems to be the July 1944 crash mentioned in Paul Larcom, *A History of Beverly Airport* (no publisher: 2013), 11, although Larcom says that the plane was an Avenger torpedo bomber.

3 A truck garden is a field where produce is grown for commercial sale.

grinning from ear to ear, waved us off with a hearty, "well done lads". For just a few brief moments we had shared in our nation's war effort, moments never to be forgotten.

APPENDIX O:
VERNON CLARK'S SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

The Clark Family were tenants in the Thomas Kilham House from *ca.*1927 to 1940. Vernon S. Clark (1915–2006) fought in World War II (albeit after his family's residence in the Thomas Kilham House). The following summary of his service appears in a town history from 1949:[1]

> VERN CLARK entered on active duty as a Private in the Army of the U. S. on November 20, 1942. He was assigned to the Air Corps and took his basic training at Atlantic City, N. J. From there he went as a student to the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics in New York and New Jersey. His next assignment was to the 94th Airdrome Squadron, Pyote, Tex. where he served as a mechanic.
>
> Vern Clark left Los Angeles, Calif, on August 2, 1943. He sailed on a transport, the *USS Uruguay*, to Hobart, Tasmania where the ship picked up two more transports and had cruiser and corvette escort part of the rest of the way to India.
>
> In November 1943 he was transferred to the ATC (Air Transport Command) and was stationed at Karachi, India, where he worked as a mechanic and as surveyor and draftsman for the Base Engineer. He was sent to New Delhi in January 1944 and worked as draftsman in Navigation and Briefing, at the headquarters of the South-East Asia Command. When the headquarters of this command was transferred to Calcutta in April 1944, he went with them and continued to do the same work. He was promoted to Sergeant in August 1944.
>
> He flew from Calcutta to Karachi and returned to the United States by boat in November 1945 and was honorably discharged on November 25, 1945 at Ft. Devens, Mass.
>
> Presidential Unit Citation awarded to ATC, January 1944 for tonnage flown over The Hump.

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1 Wenham Historical Association, *Wenham in World War II* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1949), 52-53.

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with star for Burma Campaign.
World War II Victory Medal[.]

APPENDIX P:
NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF THE FIRE OF 1959

200-Year-old Wenham House is Swept by $20,000 Blaze[1]
Alarm Mixup Gives Fire Big Start

WENHAM, May 4—Fire of undetermined origin yesterday afternoon caused damage estimated at more than $20,000[2] to the 200-year-old Kimball house at the corner of Maple street and Puritan road recently renovated by the new owner, Mrs. Evelyn Pescosolido. Absence of the occupants from the home, and a mix-up in alerting the fire department[,] gave the fire a tremendous start, and the old colonial farmhouse was engulfed in smoke as the first apparatus arrived.

Four Wenham firefighters, Lts. Herbert Jacques and Albert Homan, Pvt. Harry Dale and Town Wire Inspector Fred Varney received lacerated hands battling the blaze, but after receiving first aid from Police Chief Edward Haraden, remained on duty.

CHILDREN SPOT BLAZE

The blaze was discovered shortly before 1 o'clock by the two children of Mr. and Mrs. Garfield J. Hewson, Jr., who live directly across from the old landmark.[3] A member of the Hewson household called the fire station and when no one answered the phone there, the telephone operator following custom sounded the fire assembly call from the alarm box in her office. The latter worked perfectly, but apparently through some trouble on the line, the fire whistle failed to sound. A check by Chief Frank Sargent immediately after the fire

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1 *Salem Evening News* [Salem, MA], May 4, 1959, 1-2. The article is illustrated with two photographs: one of the north-facing wall of the house with the inaccurate caption "Wenham's Oldest House Gutted by Fire" (shown in Figure 4.47), and the other of Gary Hewson (who discovered the fire).

2 Based on the growth of the Consumer Price Index, $20,000 was worth roughly $202,000 in 2022 dollars. In July 1959 she took out a $14,000 mortgage on her house; see Essex County Deeds 4582:223 (Evelyn Pescosolido to Haverhill Savings Bank, mortgage, 1959).

3 The Hewsons lived at 4 Puritan Road; see Essex County Deeds 4417:196 (Tacoma [*sic*] Company, Inc. to Garfield J. Jr. and Georgette Hewson, 1957.)

showed the fire box at the telephone office was in working condition, but the circuit to the Wenham fire station did not function.

DANVERS ASSISTS

When between 10 and 15 minutes had elapsed and no apparatus had reached the scene, another Puritan road resident called the Danvers fire department. Capt. Joseph Kelley, Jr., officer in charge there, immediately set off for Wenham with Engine One, notifying his colleague, Capt. Leland Martin, to try to contact Chief Sargent or someone in the Wenham department. The latter's call to the Wenham chief was [the] first notification received, and Chief Sargent sped to the station and turned in the alarm.

Wenham and Danvers apparatus arrived almost simultaneously, and Capt. Kelley seeing the dimensions of the fire radioed back for Engine Two which responded with Chief Joseph Farley and Capt. Martin.

One Danvers pumper went into action, and two Wenham pumpers. The Danvers crew used one big line cut into two smaller lines, and Wenham placed two big lines and three small lines into action.

Additional impetus to the blaze was given by a well-meaning neighbor while waiting for the arrival of firefighters. He put a garden hose into action, and as he opened a window, the high wind fanned the flames even more.[4]

Despite the headway and the fact flames were leaping out first floor windows when the firefighters arrived, the blaze was brought under control in half an hour.

The den in which the fire started, and the adjacent kitchen were badly gutted. The flames also leaped up a partition unhindered by any fire stops and spread into the third floor attic where the Danvers crews halted it. Wenham firefighters attacked the blaze on the first floor, and by surrounding it confined the fire damage to the two rooms there. Intense heat, water and smoke, however, in every room caused the extensive loss with many valuable antique furnishings damaged.

FANNED BY WIND

Mrs. Pescosolido had left her home early yesterday morning, but her son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Pattison Esmial [*sic*],[5] visiting from Rochester, N.Y., had remained until about 11.30 A.M., when they left for Cambridge. Heaviest burning in the room where the fire started appeared centered in one corner where a television set was located, and near a sidewall against which there

4 The well-meaning neighbor was Ed Ernst (1919–2020) who lived at 1 Puritan Road. He told the story of the 1959 fire to Robert O. Corcoran and Frederick ("Rick") S. Woodland Jr. several times but never included the detail that his opening of a window actually made the fire worse.

5 Dr. Pattison Esmiol and Barbara (Pescosolido) Esmiol. See R. L. Polk, *Polk's Rochester City Directory, 1960* (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1960), 353.

had been a table and lamp. A strong wind fanned the fire, once the house was opened. Two baby kittens were found suffocated in a room near where the fire started.

The 18th century farmhouse was purchased last year by Mrs. Pescosolido who moved in late in the fall after making extensive renovations.

The Danvers apparatus returned to quarters at 2.30. While Wenham firefighters were reloading their trucks, and one engine was still at the Puritan road fire, a call was received for a fire in the town dump off Woodside lane; two kits answered this using booster lines on the small blaze that was just getting under way.

APPENDIX Q:
NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW OF
EVELYN PESCOSOLIDO, 1962

Fire Ravaged Room A Stern Reminder: From Ashes, A Moral[1]
By Virginia Bohlin

A small framed photograph of a fire ravaged room shares wall space in a Wenham living-room [*sic*] with some costly oil paintings.

The paintings hang there for their beauty; the photograph for its moral lesson.

"It's a gentle reminder that you can't emphasize material things. One minute they're here. The next minute, they're gone," philosophized Mrs. Evelyn Pescosolido, owner of the late 17th century house.

The photograph shows how the living room looked that May day in 1959 when Mrs. Pescosolido drove down Maple St. and saw her home virtually gutted.

"I'd been living here only five months. I was still scraping paint off the paneling, but the house was coming along pretty well and I was very proud of it.

"Just that morning my daughter, who was visiting me with her husband, had remarked, 'You do love this house, don't you, Mother?[']"

"So much so that sometimes I even pat the walls when I walk by," Mrs. Pescosolido had quipped.

Then a few hours later she returned to find the house and all her worldly belongings—except seven pieces of furniture and two paintings—completely destroyed.

At first it seemed like a tragedy. But now this mother of five grown children and four grandchildren looks on the fire as "the biggest moral lesson I ever had."

---

1 *Boston Traveler,* November 20, 1962, 24.

"The response of people at the time of the fire, the family drawing together in time of trouble, these are the values to be emphasized—not the material losses," she said.

Although two-thirds of the house was destroyed by the fire, the location and love for those features that weren't lost influenced Mrs. Pescosolido to rebuild.

"I changed things around that I felt could be improved. But fundamentally it is quite the same," she said.

The opening between the front and back living-rooms [*sic*] was widened to make the two rooms seem more like one. And a powder room which had been fitted into a closet with no window was moved to an outside wall location.

But she retained the long windows on the front that had been substituted sometime around the 1870's for the smaller ones.

The old pantry that was turned into a kitchen in the remodeling before the fire is still the kitchen. And the original kitchen which was made into the family room is still the family room.

The house, one of the oldest in Wenham, will be open to the public for the "Follow the Gleam" tour Dec. 1 and 2 from 1 to 6 p.m.

This Christmas tour of decorated homes is being sponsored by the Community Garden Club of Hamilton and Wenham. Proceeds will go toward civic improvements and scholarships for both towns.

Although Mrs. Pescosolido's home is Early American she is furnishing it in no particular period.

The living-room [*sic*], which is a combination of rough white plaster with Williamsburg blue woodwork, has documentary blue and white draperies. But the furniture is a mixture of contemporary, French provincial, Victorian and even 16th century Italian.

The very early Italian is to be found in a small writing desk.

"I saw it in an antique shop and couldn't resist it—especially when I found my initials, E. B., were carved into the top," said the former Evelyn Bulkeley of Waban.

[Photograph caption]

(Traveler Staff Photos by Richard Bielinski)

THIS LATE 17TH CENTURY home in Wenham (top), owned by Mrs. Evelyn Pescosolido (upper right) will be among five to be opened for the annual Christmas tour of homes in Wenham and Hamilton, Dec. 1 and 2. Center is a view of the dining room, finished in rough white plaster and natural pine. The draperies are a dark brown documentary print on white. Upper left, the guest bedroom with canopied bed. Above, the living room.

APPENDIX R:
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
HOUSE & PROPERTY, 1997–2025

1998	Renovation of the kitchen and TV room (formerly the Hatches' craft room)
1999	Sistering of rafters in the attic Construction of the brick patio and fishpond
2001	Construction of the sidewalk along Maple Street
2003	Planting of the orchard and a pair of 4-inch caliper elm trees at the foot of the driveway Renovation of the master bathroom
2008	Removal of the greenhouse and construction of the porch Construction of the chicken coop and cage ~4-foot patch to the southwest corner post near the eaves
2012	Construction of the chicken run
2018	Replacement of the fence between 26 Maple Street and 1 Puritan Road
2019	Removal of furnace chimney and installation of new furnace

Figure R.1. The chicken coop, chicken run and chicken cage.[1]

1 The chicken coop is the portion of the building with the vent along its ridgeline. The coop and chicken cage (along the south wall) were built in 2008 by Joao "John" Alves of Billerica. The chicken run (along the west wall) was built in 2012 by Dan Leonard of Danvers. The window on the south wall of the coop (visible in this photograph) was found leaning against a wall in Peter's Room in the attic. The last chicken died in 2025, and the coop was converted to use as a tool shed. August 12, 2025 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

APPENDIX S:
REMOVAL OF THE FURNACE CHIMNEY, 2019

By 2019 the furnace chimney was leaning away from the north wall of the house, and the furnace itself (vintage 1980s) was getting old. It was deemed too costly to rebuild the chimney in brick, and the decision was made to remove it and replace the oil-burning furnace with a propane-burning one that could be vented closer to ground level. The furnace chimney was removed on June 24, 2019 by father and son Greg (b.1948) and Ethan Murray (b.1975) of Beverly, Massachusetts.[1]

The chimney was 73" east of the back door. The chimney stack was two bricks wide, two bricks deep and 92 courses tall; the sloped cleanout pit was five bricks wide at ground level, two bricks deep and fourteen courses tall, and narrowed to the chimney stack. The flue was lined with clay tiles. A random sampling found that most of the bricks were unmarked, but many were marked "NEBCo" (made by the New England Brick Company of Cambridge, Massachusetts) and some were marked "OXFORD" (made by the Alwine Brick Company of New Oxford, Pennsylvania).[2] The cleanout door was iron, marked "HUTCH," and was placed four courses above ground level.

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1 Rick Woodland, "Building Permit Application to Construct, Repair, Renovate of Demolish," BP-2019-0085, May 28, 2019, MS, Permitting Office, Wenham Town Hall, Wenham.

2 The New England Brick Company had a brickyard on Sherman Street in Cambridge from the nineteenth century to 1952; see https://brickcollecting.com/NEB.htm.

For the "OXFORD" mark (raised letters in a rectangular frog), see https://brickcollecting.com/collectors_page3.htm. The Alwine Brick Company began operations in the nineteenth century and was purchased by a competitor in 1978; see Duane F. Alwin, "A Century of Brickmaking at Berlin Junction: A History of the Alwine Brick Company," *Adams County History,* 18 (2012):5, available at https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol18/iss1/5. All URLs accessed November 9, 2022.

Figure S.1.North-facing wall of the house, showing the furnace chimney just before its removal. Note the metal straps (one at gutter level, the other just below the level of the windowsill on the second floor), holding the chimney against the side of the building.[3]

3 June 17, 2019 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

Figure S.2.Furnace chimney cleanout pit.[4]

4 June 22, 2019 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

Figure S.3. North-facing wall of the house with the furnace chimney removed and installation of the new furnace exhaust system underway.[5]

5 June 27, 2019 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

APPENDIX T:
BLACK LIVES MATTER INCIDENT, 2020

Black Lives Matter is a social movement that highlights the racism experienced by black people, a movement that began in response to a number of high-visibility killings of black individuals in the 2010s. The current owners of the Thomas Kilham House showed their support of the movement (as did others in Wenham) by displaying a "Black Lives Matter" sign next to Maple Street at the foot of their driveway. The sign was stolen three times, at least two of those times by Danvers residents George A. and Catherine Sellios. "Black Lives Matter" signs were also stolen from other sites in Wenham during the summer of 2020, a period of heightened anxiety during the COVID pandemic when most people were largely housebound.

Sequence of Events

- Saturday morning, July 18, 2020: Rick Woodland discovered that the sign had been stolen. He called the Wenham Police Department (non-emergency phone number) and left a message on their recorded line reporting the theft, receiving a return follow-up call from the police the following Monday.
- Monday, July 20: Rick put up a replacement sign, booby-trapped with a coating of Vaseline and cayenne pepper and surrounded by dog feces. "If they're going to steal this sign, they better be wearing gloves!"
- Saturday, July 25: Rick caught George and Catherine Sellios in the act of stealing the second sign, as Rick returned home from running errands around 10:25AM. The Sellioses had parked their car on the side of the road (Maple Street) adjacent to the sign; Rick quickly maneuvered his car "Starsky and Hutch style" (his words) such that he blocked the Sellioses' ability to drive away. George Sellios (age 78) was holding a Bible in one hand as he was trying to remove the sign with the other hand; Catherine

Sellios (age 67) was standing a few feet away watching him. George Sellios tried to quote biblical verse to justify his theft of the sign; Rick countered by quoting the Commandment not to steal. Rick called 911, the police quickly arrived and arrested the Sellioses, and the police took the sign as evidence (after Rick warned the police about the cayenne pepper coating).

- Wednesday, July 29: Rick put up a third sign to replace the one that the police had taken.
- Wednesday, August 19: Robbie left the house around 3:15PM to run errands and saw that the sign was missing. He stopped the car, found Rick in his garden and told him. Robbie continued with his errands and noticed that "Black Lives Matters" signs were lying on the lawns of both 82 and 98 Maple Street (*i.e.*, the signs were not upright, on display). Meanwhile, Rick reported the theft to the police.
- Saturday, September 5: Rick put up a replacement sign tethered to the ground with a cable. That sign stayed in place until it was taken down in anticipation of winter snowfall.

The incident was an agenda item during the July 25 Wenham Selectboard's meeting; the subject of a July 30 article in the *Salem News*; an item in the July 31 Wenham online police report; the subject of a July 31 article in the *Ipswich Local News*; a subject of Rev. Mike Duda's August 2 sermon to members of the First Church of Wenham (Congregational); and the topic of Rev. Duda's September 16 editorial in the *Salem News*.[1]

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1 Paul Leighton, "Suspects ID'd in theft, vandalism of Black Lives Matter signs," *The Salem News*, July 30, 2020, accessed from https://www.salemnews.com/news/local_news/suspects-idd-in-theft-vandalism-of-black-lives-matter-signs/article_61f099d5-010d-52a7-8510-01790-d8e188d.html, the article incorrectly stating that the call to the police was made on Saturday night, rather than Saturday morning; Melissa Proulx, "Wenham Police Summons Two Danvers Residents for Allegedly Stealing Black Lives Matter Signs," wenhampd.com, accessed from https://wenhampd.com/2020/07/31/wenham-police-summons-two-danvers-residents-for-allegedly-stealing-black-lives-matter-signs/?fbclid=IwAR1LvqWv1Qjfhx1VhGJAPiNH-3oUaH4qF0urD4CNz16kFdNfgLVFhvl93XsM; John P. Moulton, "Elderly couple summonsed for stealing Black Lives Matter signs in Wenham," *Ipswich Local News*, July 31, 2020, accessed from http://thelocalne.ws/2020/07/31/elderly-couple-summons-for-stealing-black-lives-matter-signs-in-wenham/?fbclid=IwAR21ElBWirR3DDMs3k40NkDaDqWbQWFqoSTfrTsgBvU-Br51iVGB5ZRV8gTY, the article incorrectly stating that the sign was stolen from a home on Cherry Street; Rev. Michael J. Duda, sermon, August 2, 2020, accessed from https://vimeo.-com/user3377358 via https://www.firstchurchwenham.org/, beginning at :40:06; Rev. Duda,

George and Catherine Sellios were charged with larceny under $1200. Their case was heard on October 5, 2022 and was continued without finding for three months. The Sellioses were ordered to stay away from 26 Maple Street as well as 31 Cherry Street, the site of a different "Black Lives Matter" sign theft. During the hearing it came to light that, prior to the July incident, Black Lives Matters supporters had been staging a protest in Peabody, across the street from George Sellios' model train store.[2]

"How we judge our selves, and others, matters," *The Salem News*, September 16, 2020, 3, https://salemnews-cnhi.newsmemory.com/?publink=10122cbd0_13437f8.

2 See Jaime Campos, "Slideshow: Black Lives Matter protest takes place in Peabody," *The Salem News*, June 4, 2020, https://www.salemnews.com/community/slideshow-black-lives-matter-protest-takes-place-in-peabody/collection_7b60987e-a6b6-11ea-91d6-33e2873835d2-.html.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE ESSEX DISTRICT

VICTIM WITNESS SERVICES DIVISION

JONATHAN W. BLODGETT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 6, 2022

Frederick Woodland
26 Maple Street
Wenham, Ma 01984

Commonwealth vs. GEORGE A SELLIOS
Date of Incident: 07/25/2020
Charge: Larceny Under $1200 C266 §30(1) (3 Counts)

Dear Mr. Woodland:

This is to inform you that the above case was heard on October 5, 2022, and the Judge sentenced the defendant to the following:

Continued without a finding for 3 months. Must stay away from 26 Maple Street and 31 Cherry Street in Wenham MA. Must stay away from and have no contact with the victims.

We would like to express our appreciation for your assistance in prosecuting this case. If you have any questions about the outcome of this case, please feel free to contact our office at the address or telephone number at the bottom of this letter.

Sincerely,

Meghan Galanos
Victim/Witness Advocate
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

IPSWICH DISTRICT COURT AT NEWBURYPORT, RTE 1 TRAFFIC CIRCLE , NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
978-462-3511

PC2/tl

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October 6, 2022

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26 Maple Street
Wenham, Ma 01984

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Date of Incident: 07/25/2020
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APPENDIX U:
INSULATION OF THE ATTIC, 2025

Most of the attic floorboards[1] were taken up in June 2025 as part of a project to insulate the house. Fiberglass insulation was found beneath the floorboards, indicating that the boards (which had been attached to the joists with modern nails) were of late twentieth-century vintage.

Figure U.1. Attic floorboards removed, revealing insulation that had been installed in the late twentieth century.[2]

1 The floorboards in Peter's Room were left undisturbed. Likewise, the floorboards in the attic's two northwestern bays were left undisturbed.

2 June 30, 2025 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The stack pipe visible in the next two photographs is hidden in this view.

It has been an open question what the original use had been of the second-floor space currently used as the guest bathroom. But when the attic floorboards were taken up, it revealed the framing for a former staircase. In support of this conclusion:

- The beam to the right of the stack pipe (venting the guest bathroom) does not extend all the way to the plate but rather rests in the joist that is behind the stack pipe.
- The joist in front of the stack pipe is a later replacement. We know this because it is resting in mortises that are rather wider than the joist itself.

Figure U.2. Framing above the guest bathroom. The dotted lines highlight the former site of a staircase.[3]

3 June 30, 2025 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

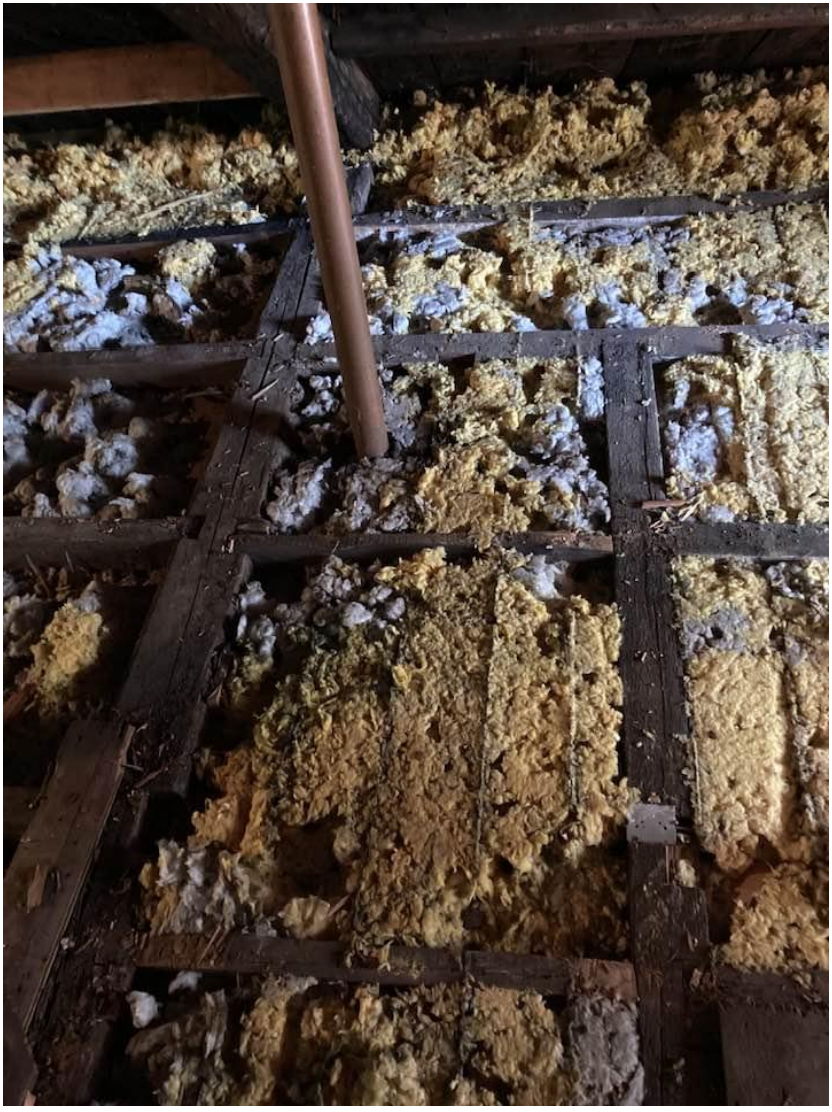

Figure U.3. Framing above the guest bathroom.[4]

4 June 30, 2025 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

APPENDIX V:
GHOSTS

This is the part of the book where I abandon the third-party voice to describe certain events I experienced—events that some readers will dismiss as nonsense. I believe that the Thomas Kilham House has been haunted by the ghost of a woman we came to call "Upstairs Lady." I also believe that the house has been (and may still be) haunted by the ghost of a man we came to call "Downstairs Guy."[1]

UPSTAIRS LADY

Upstairs Lady had an affinity for the room on the second floor of the house that is to the north of the chimney, although I also had experiences I attribute to her in the adjoining master bedroom.

One afternoon in the late 1990s, when I was taking out the trash, I glanced up at the second floor of the house and saw a woman at the eastern window of the room to the north of the chimney, looking back at me. She had black curly hair, a lace bonnet, and a black dress with lace at the color. The style of her hair and clothing was popular in New England in the 1830s. The thought "She's curious" flashed in my mind—and then she was gone. I ran inside the house and confirmed with Rick that he had been downstairs the entire time. I do not remember the specific year or the season of the year, but I do remember that it wasn't wintertime.

About a year later I was again taking out the trash one afternoon and glanced up at the second floor of the house. This time I saw the figure of a person walking past the same window where I had previously seen Upstairs

1 Former resident Dede Austin did not recall (2023) anyone in her family speaking of the house as being haunted.

Lady. As I had the first time, I ran inside the house and confirmed with Rick that he had been downstairs.

Jane Storm Teller. Portrait by Ammi Phillips (1788–1865) painted *ca.* 1835.[2] Upstairs Lady's hair style, lace bonnet, lace collar and dress were very similar to those shown here.

2 National Gallery of Art, 1953.5.31.

There were three or four subsequent times when I saw our dog run from the ground floor up the back stairs to the room to the north of the chimney, and started barking, for no apparent reason.

One day during the summer of 2009 I was doing laundry. I took a basket of freshly laundered clothing up the back stairs, with the intention of putting away the clothes in the master bedroom. As soon as I stepped across the threshold of the room that is north of the chimney, I was struck with a powerful, pleasant aroma of flowers. The sensation was similar to walking into a florist shop—but the aroma was much stronger. I instinctively said aloud "Pardon me" (as if I had interrupted someone) and I continued to the master bedroom. When I finished putting away the clothes, I decided to use the front stairs to return to the ground floor to avoid further interruption.

Later that summer, at nighttime, my bedside lamp turned itself on just as I was falling asleep. The lamp turned on as if it were on a dimmer switch, increasing the brightness of the light over the course of two to three seconds, accompanied by a humming noise. The lamp, however, had a standard on/off switch; it was not on a dimmer. This happened again several times over the next three weeks, each time just as I was falling asleep. One day, however, it happened during an afternoon when I was putting away freshly laundered clothing. I decided to unplug the lamp, concerned that it might cause a fire. At the end of the summer, though, I decided to plug in the lamp to see if the dimming continued. But the dimming never recurred. The lamp has remained in the same spot for the last sixteen years plugged into the same electric socket, without incident, working normally via its on/off switch.

I have not had any experiences I attribute to Upstairs Lady since the summer of 2009. Perhaps she has moved on.

Downstairs Guy

I have had encounters with Downstairs Guy in every room on the ground floor except the TV Room (*i.e.*, the room connecting the kitchen with the garage, built by Evelyn Pescosolido) and the powder room. In other words, I have had encounters with him in every ground floor room in the old part of the house other than the powder room. Most of my encounters with him, though, have been in the ground floor southeast room.

In all of my encounters with Downstairs Guy—which have happened every several months over the last, say, twenty years—I have perceived the silhouette of a man out of the corner of my eye. The silhouette has been too dark to see the style of his clothing. My perception of him has been that his

heyday was more recent than Upstairs Lady's. My perception of him also has been that he is guarding the house, and that he is harmless.

In 2018 we invited a couple to join us for a Saturday evening dinner party in our house. We had just met the couple at church, and this was our first social interaction together. As soon as we sat down to dinner, one of our guests suddenly had a startled expression on his face and said "Your house is haunted, isn't it? And your ghost spends a lot of time in that room, doesn't he?" (Our guest was pointing in the direction of the ground floor southeast room.) Our guest then explained that he is sensitive to ghosts.

One Sunday morning in 2022, having just returned home from church, I went into the kitchen to make some coffee. Rick went upstairs to change his clothes. I was standing at the intersection of the counters in the southwest corner of the kitchen with my back to the room. I heard someone walking from the back hallway, through the ground floor room to the north of the chimney, and into the kitchen. I had the sensation of that person walking behind me into the middle of the kitchen. Thinking it was Rick, I turned to ask him a question—but there was no one there. I broke into laughter and said aloud, directing my comment to Downstairs Guy, "Well, *that* was a good one!" A few minutes later Rick came downstairs, having changed his clothes.

House guests and our dog walker have heard someone walking through the house, or have heard a man talking, when there was no one else present in the building.

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INDEX

Alley, Gordon B. 151, 211, 216
Anthony, Barbara M. ..... *See* Barbara M. Nelson
Barns ..... x, 36, 58, 66, 98, 100, 123–26, 128, 176–77, 190–91, 231, 236–37, 312–18
Batchelder, Edmund Jr. 20–22, 59
Beekeeping 283
Beverly Airport 33, 59, 134, 165, 168, 200–201, 331–36
Bixby
  Alice M. 153
  Charles M. 152–53, 158, 160
  Charles W. .. xii, 152–59, 322, 324, 326
  Emeline E. 152–53, 159
  Mary Jane 153, 158, 160
  Nellie H. 153
Black Lives Matter Episode 349–53
Bray, Emeline E. ..... *See* Emeline E. Bixby
Bright, George H. 216–17
Bromley's Ice Cream Parlor 184–85
Brown, Abigail Davis 24–26
Bulkeley, Evelyn Carol ..... *See* Evelyn Pescosolido
Burnham, Joshua, Col. 46
Census-Taker Wanderer Error, defined 319
Chamberlain
  Alfred Jr. (b.1941). 210
  Alfred R. (1921–2004) 210–12
  Maxine A. 210
  Maxwell 210
Civil War 110–12, 114, 119, 154–56
Clark
  Sherman R. ... 169–71, 176–79, 328–29
  Vernon S. 169, 171–72, 177, 335–36
Cook
  Samuel S. (1817–1902) ... 114, 159, 321
  Samuel S. (1881–1919) 158–59
  Stephen 59
Crane, Carol L. ..... *See* Carol L. Smith
Cutler
  Alfred Warren 169, 174–75
  Alice M. 169, 174
  Elizabeth M. 169, 176
  Harold H. 169, 176
  Mary H. (Landry) 169–73
  Thomas Chester 173
Davis
  Dorothy E. 217, 221–28
  Eldridge T. 217, 221–28
Deshon, Maxine A. ..... *See* Maxine A. Chamberlain
De-Yankeefication 181
Dierdorff, Susan 78
Driveway ..... x, 36, 42, 181, 281
Elwell, Nancy ..... *See* Nancy Kimball (1791–1865)
Enslaved People 44–45
  Black, Scipio 44–45
  Freeman, Phyllis (Bryant) 44
  Freeman, Scipio 44–45
  Phoebe 45
  Scipio 45
  Venus 45
Epidemics 64

Evans
Alpheus D.....100, 104, 109–13
Hannah A. .....xii, 100, 109–10
Hannah L.....110, 112
John W. .....xi, 104, 110, 113
Josephine A. .....xi, 100, 104, 109, 113
Mary Q.....104, 113
Samuel L..... 100, 104, 109, 113
Theodore L. 104, 113
Fairfield
Benjamin.....35
Elizabeth (Appleton).....31, 40–42
Elizabeth G. .....*See* Lizzie Kimball
Fairfield Farm 182–83
John, Rev. 41
Joseph.....35, 40–43
Josiah (1701–1777).....ix, 84, 257
Josiah Jr. (1747–1794)..... 35, 40
Matthew.....35, 40–41
Fairweather, Ruth W. ..... *See* Ruth Thayer
Fire (1959)..... x, 50, 94, 96, 214, 245–51, 261–63, 270, 337–42
Fire Cisterns 166
Fiske, Samuel Jr. 37, 42–43, 106, 163
Frye, Mary E.....161
Furnace Chimney..... 95, 96, 343, 345–48
Gallop, Isaac.....55
George, Annie C.....158–59
Ghosts 359–62
Gott
Gott Family Tree.....29
John Jr. Farm 28–31, 36, 40–41, 43, 58
Nathaniel 28
Harris, David.....ix
Haskell, Eunice..... 24–26
Haslegrave, William E. A. 216–17
Hatch
Nancy M. 278–80
Robert W. 278–80
Hicks, Robert B. 177, 200–201, 331–36
Hooper
Gertrude D. .....*See* Dorothy Warren
Mary.....11
Houses & House Sites
Alley, Almira 163
Bowden, Andrew R. 163
Claflin-Richards..... 94, 97
Cook, Stephen.....163
Dodge, Bartholomew 108
Fiske, Samuel (the Tailor).....104, 163
Fiske, Samuel Jr. 106, 109, 114, 159, 163
Fiske-Gott..... 28, 31, 43, 71
Hacker, Joseph.....106
Kent-Schlehuber.....163
Moulton, John W. L. ..... *See* Stephen Cook House
Porter-Crowninshield..... 89, 163, 182
Joyce, Rosamond D. ..... *See* Rosamond Payson
Kent
John K.....142
Joseph F. 151, 321, 323
Joseph G. 75–76, 121–22, 142
Kimball
Benjamin Porter.....xi, 24–26
Betsey (1783–1855)..... 11, 61
Betsey E. (1829–1864).... xi–xii, 79–80, 100–101, 104, 121–22
Caleb Jr.....55–56
Clarissa.....xi, 17, 23–24, 66–69, 202
Ebenezer S..... xi, 78, 82, 100–101, 121
Edmund (1786–1879), Capt..... 11–15, 17, 55, 59, 61, 63, 65–66, 68, 129
Edmund (1823–1919)..... xi, 78, 81–82, 100–101, 121
Elizabeth (Rogers).....28
Elwell F. .....xi, 116, 142–44, 147–51, 211, 215, 315–19
Huldah.....xii, 3–10, 17, 28–29, 57–62
John (1791–1835)..... xii, 8, 16, 61
John (1819–1842).....xi, 75, 77
Josiah Moulton 59
Kimball Family Tree.....29
Lizzie.....116, 120–21, 124–25, 144, 303–9
Luella M. 144, 147, 150
Lydia 17, 20–22, 66–69, 202
Maria.....xi–xii, 25
Mary B. 144, 147, 151
Nancy (1791–1865).....xii, 71–75, 88, 100–104
Nancy (1817–1908)..... xi, 73, 75–76
Nathaniel..... 16, 35, 56, 59, 66

Paul (1781–1797) 11
Paul (1797–1851) 16, 18
Sally 16, 18, 57, 66, 68
Sarah J. (1821–1852) ..... xi–xii, 73, 78, 80, 100–101
Sarah J. (b.ca.1855) 104
Solomon E. ..... xi, 79, 82, 94, 100–101, 104, 116–20, 121–27, 139–44, 275, 299–301, 312–14, 319
Thomas 3rd (1789–1845) ..... xii, 15, 17, 19, 47, 57, 59, 61–62, 66–69, 71–84
Thomas 4th (b.1818) ..... xi, 75
Thomas Jr. (1756–1810) ..... xii, 3–10, 27–43, 47, 49, 59–60
Knight, John 31–32, 35
Knowles, Mary Q. ..... *See* Mary Q. Evans
Leach, Matthew Jr. 16, 19, 57
Lyon, Josephine A. ..... *See* Josephine Newton
Maguire, Ida ..... *See* Lillian Thayer
Mapleville Chapel 138, 185
McGraw, Anna (Moore) (Newton) 231
Mileposts 46
Miles, Howard 197
Moulton, Daniel 55–56
Murphy, Nancy P. ..... *See* Nancy M. Hatch
Nelson
Alice 193, 195, 197
Barbara A. 193, 196–97
John 196
Lillian E. 196
Mark 196
Roy E. (1888–1950) 193–94, 197
Roy E. Jr. (1916–1995), Rev. 196
Stanley W. 193, 196–99
Newcomb, Richard H. 100, 104, 113
Newton
Earle W. 2nd 230–33
Josephine 230
Page
Carl H. 158, 161, 164, 326
Edith E. 164
John (1751–1838) 28–29, 35
John H. (1871–1938) 158, 160–61
Payson
David H. 208
Joyce L. 208
Paula E. 208
Richard H. 208–9
Rosamond 208
Peabody
Elbridge G. 106–7
Joseph W. ..... xii, 132–33
Pauline 106
Peat Harvesting 92–93, 314–15
Perkins, Charles 116
Pescosolido, Evelyn ..... x, 214, 233–70, 337–42
Peter's Room 283, 344, 355
Place Names
Blind Hole 314–18
Causeway Hill 134, 206
Cedar Pond 46, 89
Cherry Hill 136, 331
Chicken Hill 206
Close, The 62, 101
Farm Pasture 33, 35
Gravel Pit 165–66, 180, 200, 219, 332
Great Meadow 33, 59, 83
Great Pasture 58–59, 62, 101–2
Hobbs Hill 134
Hobbs Lot (Fairfield) 35
Hobbs Lot (Kimball) 101–2, 121–22, 151, 315–18
Hobbs Pasture 35
Leach's Land 31, 35
Leach's Spring 32
Leach's Swamp 31–32, 92–93, 121–22, 134, 142, 180, 273, 275
Long Field 58, 62, 67, 202
Lord's Hill 136, 182
Mapleville 138, 185
Meadow Hill 134, 206
Moulton Hill 183
Muddy Pond 89
Orchard 58, 62, 100
Round Pasture 58–59, 62
Rye Field 31
Spring Pasture 32, 35
Swamp Orchard 101, 122
Swamp Pasture 59, 62, 66, 101
Upper Field 62, 66, 101, 122, 151, 211, 216–19, 225
Wenham Canal (1800) 46
Wenham Canal (1916) 142

Wenham Lake 46, 183
Wenham Swamp 83, 92, 142
Population, Wenham 44, 70, 112, 181
Porter
Francis 28–29
Isaac (1750–1837) 56
Isaac (1797–1854) 23–24
Porter Family Tree 29
Renovations
Federal Period 47–54
Front Windows & Porch 126–28
Kimballs' Ground Floor Expansion 94–99
Pescosolido, 1958–1959 244–45
Pescosolido, 1959–1960 ..... *See* Fire (1959)
Pescosolido, 1960s 263
Revolutionary War ..... ix–x, 3, 27
Rogers, Mary Jane .... *See* Mary Jane Bixby Russell
Harold H. 158–60
Lydia Mugford 11–14
Saunders, Thomas 33, 35
Schools
Hamilton High School 177
Wenham Grammar School 120, 305–6
West Wenham School 120, 138, 166–67, 303–5, 307–9
Sidmore, Luella M. ..... *See* Luella M. Kimball
Sitler, Mary B. ..... *See* Mary B. Kimball
Small, Edith Eaton ..... *See* Edith E. Page Smith
Alice M. ..... *See* Alice M. Cutler
Carol L. 270–72
Dwain B. 270–72
Richard R. 104, 114–15
Spiller, Hannah L. ..... *See* Hannah L. Evans
Stevens
Lewis 88, 108
Mary P. 108
Stewart, Dorothy E. ..... *See* Dorothy E. Davis
Streets
Birch Road 278
Bomer Street ... 137, 213, *See* Topsfield Road
Burley Street 32, 59, 89, 109, 134, 137, 166, 216, 331
Burnham Road 278
Cedar Street 89, 137, 183
Cherry Street ... 3–4, 46, 120, 137, 153, 160, 164, 182–83, 185, 202, 351
Company Lane 162–63
Conrad Circle 278
Conrad Circle .... 33, 134, 206, *See* Place Names:Farm Pasture
Daniels Road 134, 206, 278, 280
Eaton Road 202, 213, 220
Enon Road 278
Flint Street 44, 46, 137, 220
Hilltop Drive 278
Kimball Avenue 278
Kimball Farm Cart Path 36–37
Laurel Drive 278
Main Drive 278
Maple Street 31–33, 36–37, 42, 59, 83, 89, 100, 104, 106, 110, 114, 126, 134, 137–39, 145–46, 159, 162–67, 177, 179, 181–82, 184–85, 192, 200, 204–5, 216, 224–25, 281, 319–30, 332–33, 343, 349
Maple Street, widening (1942) 192
Mayflower Drive 180, 213, 228, 272–78
Meridian Road .... 202–3, 213, 219–20, *See* Place Names:Long Field
Middlewood Drive 282
Morgan Street 278
Nathaniel Circle 282
Orchard Lane 282
Porter's Road 89
Proposed (1875) 134
Puritan Road 58, 177, 180, 191, 213, 220, 224–30, 268, 272, 274, 281, 337–39, 343
Regwill Avenue 213, 220
Speakers Lane 282
Stage Hill Road 46, 282
Topsfield Road ..... 28, 33, 36–37, 44, 46, 89, 108, 134, 137–38, 166–67, 182–85, 192, 202, 206, 213, 217, 219, 225, 312–18, *See* Bomer Street

Topsfield Road, widening (1833).....83
Topsfield Road, widening (1931)...151
Virginia Place.....282
William Fairfield Drive.....282
Tacona Company.....228–30, 272–78
Telephone.....177, 270
Thayer
Ernest W. (1881–1964)...186–87, 189, 330
Ernest W. Jr. (1914–1987)..... 186, 188–90
Lillian.....186, 189
Ruth.....186, 189
Tiney
Eli W.....88, 109
Emily J.....109
John E.....104, 109
Todd, Ebenezer Jr.....11
Town Dump.....339
Town Water.....204–5
War of 1812.....11, 63
Warren
David B.....283–94
Dorothy.....283–94
Webber
Benjamin.....84–85
Experience.....xii, 84–85
Morris.....108
Nancy P.....108
Wentworth, Edwin.....191
Wheeler, George R.....151, 211, 215–16
Whittier, Hannah A.....*See* Hannah A. Evans
Wilder, Mary O.....78, 81
Wood
Alice.....*See* Alice Nelson
Nathan.....31, 35
World War II.... 165, 168, 177, 179, 187–88, 194, 198, 200–201, 209, 222, 331–36
Young
Eunice.....29
William.....29

*